

Take heart Harambee Stars, all is not lost

With the humiliatingly poor performance of national team, Harambee Stars in South Africa two weeks ago, the signal is now clear that the Kenya Football Federation (KFF) and its other associates need to go back to the drawing table if the team's future performance is to improve.

Harambee Stars bagged a pointless fourth position in the Simba Four tournament putting into focus the question of whether or not it can face future challenges.

However, sports pundits will generally agree that despite the poor show down south, all is not lost for the Kenyan side. One thing that must be agreed upon is the fact that since the Sam Nyamweya-led KFF took office early this year, football performance has greatly improved.

Write off

The poor show in South Africa, where the team did not register any score came unexpected to many. Many observers had a lot of confidence in the team, but the fact that they lost should not be used to dismiss them from the scene this time round.

The team is still preparing for encounters like the African Cup of Nations, the World Cup qualifiers and the East and Central Africa Challenge Cup, where efforts must be put into place to ensure that the team plays a tangible game.

In the South African hosted tournament, Harambee Stars were beaten 1-0 by the hosts, then Ghana followed with a similar performance before Australia hammered the team 4-0. However, in football, like in any other game, it would be wrong to write off Harambee Stars at this point in time.

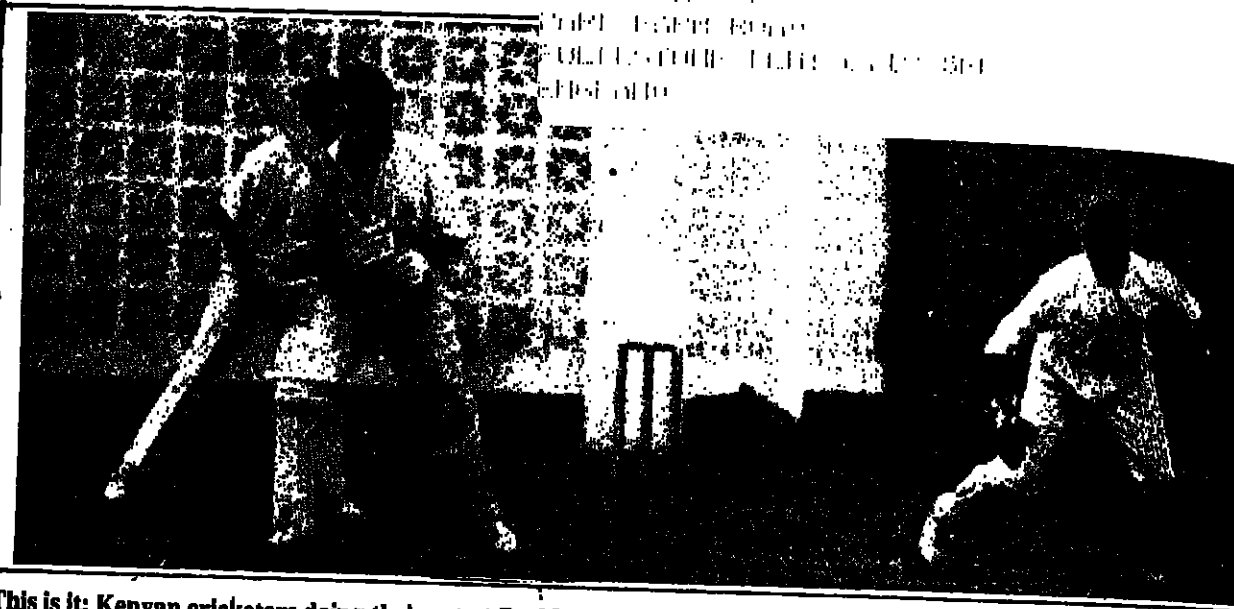
In the view of many, what soccer administrators in the country should be doing is re-organising the team to root out those problems that caused the poor show in South Africa.

Regional events

Confidence with the team must be re-affirmed before the team embarks on its other regional events besides the World Cup qualifier matches: Conch Gadesiovo 'Vojo must not be

disappointed by the event in South Africa. He should now be psyching the team to forget what happened there and prepare them for the challenge ahead.

As far as many people are concerned, soccer in the country has improved so much this year that it would be wrong for one to only throw barbs at the national team for its performance down south.



This is it: Kenyan cricketers doing their act at Parklands. The game is adequately covered on TV for those who know little about it.

Cricket galore

The eagerly awaited Four Nations Centenary tournament finally kicked off in Nairobi last Saturday bringing into Kenya some of the strongest cricket teams in the world.

The week-long event, which ends on October 9, has brought in world Champions, Sri Lanka, South Africa and Pakistan. The show is sponsored by the Smeor Group of Companies.

As the tournament kicked off, Kenyans were holding their breath to see how the local team, which, early this year, humiliated West Indies in a World Cup duel will perform.

This aside, the Kenya Cricket Association (KCA), the host, will, irrespective of the Kenyan team's performance, prove a major point to the rest of the sporting community that indeed

Kenyans can organise a successful world class event.

The Sh 35 million event, will prove a further point that local organisers can pool their resources to organise a successful event without necessarily knocking the doors of government offices.

The KCA has put its best organisational foot forward to bring these world giants together and whatever the outcome of the event, there will be a permanent smile on the faces of the organisers and all those involved.

Coming from a turmoil of public accusations between its officials and those of the Umpires Association, the KCA has convinced donors to sponsor the event, which will at the end of the day play more roles than one for the country.

Barely four years ago, the association hosted yet another tournament, bringing in 17 countries to take part in the International Cricket Council (ICC).

In that event, Kenya finished second, a position that earned it a debut ticket to the World Cup early this year.

From their performance in the World Cup tournament, the Kenyan boys have been out looking for a better placing in the world map of cricket, and it is perhaps for the same reason that sponsorship came so quickly for the event currently taking place in Simba Union Club in Nairobi.

The KCA is hosting a historical event which, as stated before, is not all about winners, though. It brings together and to Kenya the world's best known

cricket players and teams, most known to the locals only through the newspapers or television.

On the other hand, the local team will have a chance to compete with the world's best, something that is a boast to them, whether they win or not.

For a long time, the majority of Kenyans have not been very keen on cricket. Indeed, many of them heard about this game when Kenya achieved the feat of outwitting West Indies, itself a cricket super-power, during the World Cup tournament.

Focus attention

With the splash of the team's win live on TV, Kenyans started focussing their attention on the formerly little celebrated sport, which they now have a chance of watching here in Nairobi.

Apart from the local fans, the Cricket Association is excited. The event is to them a major publicity boost, proving that it can sort out its internal squabbles to host a world-class event.

In the history of the country's sporting community, no single association has so far been able to pull together a record sponsorship of more than Sh 30 million without subsidies from the government and the KCA feat will be an eye-opener for other associations.

As the tournament comes to a climax, Kenyans will have time to see how the local team, invited to the World Cup as an underdog, has emerged as stars of international standards.

Sri Lanka, currently holding the world mantle, will also have an opportunity to prove whether their might has weathered since the world cup event which it grudgingly won.

Pakistan is well-known in cricket world. It was second during the World Cup which it jointly hosted with India and Sri Lanka.

Observers are of the view that the Pakistan team is here to re-occupy its reputation which

tumbled during the World Cup tournament.

Although Kenya has not been performing well since the World Cup, hopes are high that at the end of the tournament, the team will register some impressive performance.

Team Captain Maurice Odumbe told reporters last week that the team would not let its fans down.

Odumbe, who has been coaching and playing in the Netherlands, returned home three weeks ago to prepare for this grand event.

He says the team, despite not registering any sterling performance, has been gaining confidence and experience with every event.

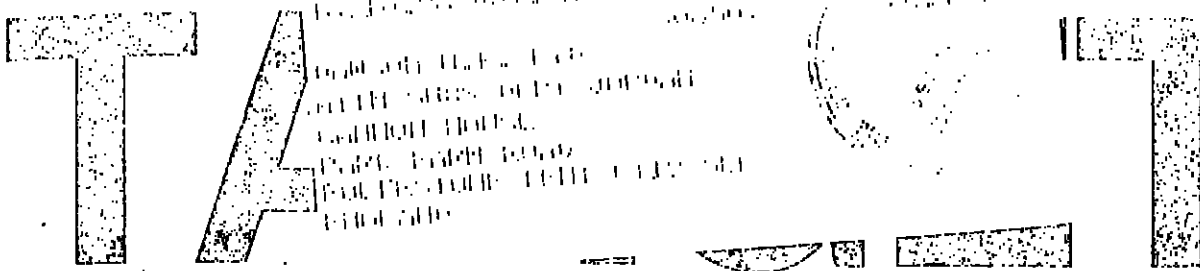
"After playing all these games, we have managed to improve on our weaknesses. We have had great experience and am sure clinching the Four Nations Cup will not be a miracle," Odumbe said before the kick off of the event last Saturday. The team suffered defeat from a South African Provincial side, Northern Transvaal, three weeks ago but this did not scare Odumbe at all.

"We are prepared. We shall be doing our best to win. The experience we have gathered so far is good enough for us to compete with the rest," he says.

On the loss to Transvaal, he said what really mattered was not winning the game, but forging a winning combination. "After playing all those matches, we have been able to put the combination in place," he adds.

Perhaps Odumbe and his team-mates would not be in the position they are in if anybody cared to promote cricket in the past. In Kenya, cricket, for those who even know it, is still a preserve of the elite.

In most parts of the country, cricket is unheard of. Now Odumbe advocates the spread of the game, not only in the city but in other parts of the country where potential is high.



'The truth shall set you free'

Issue No. 454

(John 8:3-36)

12-point winning formula for Kanu in '97

Amidst accusations of pre-election rigging and other irregularities, an opposition activist has come up with a 12-point winning formula for Kanu in the next general election.

Mr George Mwigigi, a former Assistant Minister for Agriculture, is convinced that if Kanu took his formula seriously, it would win hands down against the opposition come next year.

By Staff Reporter

At the same time, Mr Mwigigi warns that if the ruling party resorts to elections rigging and other illegal activities, there is every possibility that Kenya will be plunged into bloodshed and chaos. There is also the possibility of the opposition boycotting the election if Kanu continues giving pointers that it is not interested in

facilitating fair and free election. The winning formula for Kanu as outlined by Mr Mwigigi is as follows:

1) Combat insecurity in the country. The state of insecurity in the country, even in the so-called Kanu zones, is alarmingly high as people are mugged, robbed or killed in urban streets and rural areas. Yet it is not uncommon to see upwards of ten

policemen manning road-blocks and round-abouts generally harassing motorists.

Policemen should be re-deployed while the security detail on politicians and civil servants should be reduced to no more than one body-guard as the lives of leaders are not in danger in multi-party era.

2) Create employment opportunities by supporting

large-scale donor-assisted projects in agricultural and commercial fields. Such projects should be manned by competent management and work-force where merit is the key, otherwise, projects of the same calibre as Nyayo Bus Corporation or Kenya National Assurance will collapse and when they do they generate anti-Kanu sentiments and the party continues to lose credibility

and ultimately voters. 3) All mature (18 year-olds) youth and other Kenyans should be issued with the new generation identity cards without any fuss. The more complicated process gets, the more unpopular Kanu gets and the more votes it will lose.

4) Ensure medical care is available and affordable all over

the country. 5) Ensure that the process of issuing identity cards is fair and transparent. 6) Ensure that the process of issuing identity cards is fair and transparent. 7) Ensure that the process of issuing identity cards is fair and transparent. 8) Ensure that the process of issuing identity cards is fair and transparent. 9) Ensure that the process of issuing identity cards is fair and transparent. 10) Ensure that the process of issuing identity cards is fair and transparent. 11) Ensure that the process of issuing identity cards is fair and transparent. 12) Ensure that the process of issuing identity cards is fair and transparent.

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Who's who in race for CPK's top post

A hot behind-the-scenes race for the top post of the Church of the Province of Kenya (CPK) has started and while the Provincial Chancellor, Mr Paul Kihara Karuki, would not divulge who the candidates are, several names are being floated.

They include Kirinyaga diocesan head, Bishop David Gitari, who is also the Dean and Acting Archbishop of the largest Protestant church in the country, bishops Joseph Wasonga (Maseno West), Stephen Kwasia (Bldoret), Benjamin Nzimbi (Kitui), Horace Etemesi (Butera) and the recently ordained Peter Njenga (Mount Kenya South).

The archbishop's position fell vacant following the retirement in 1994 of Archbishop Manasses Kuria.

The third head of the CPK will be announced on November 20 following his election by a 210-member electoral college made up of both the laity and the clergy.

Indications are that Bishop Gitari stands a better chance of winning than the other nominees.

While it was not possible to establish the total number of nominees by press time, Mr Karuki, who doubles up as the church's chief legal officer, told Target that information concerning the election of the archbishop was being treated as "highly confidential" until after the election.

Mr Karuki refused to disclose

By Jeff Mbure

the number of nominees. Nor could he say whether the acting archbishop was among them.

He promised to issue a statement to the press soon after the results of the exercise were known.

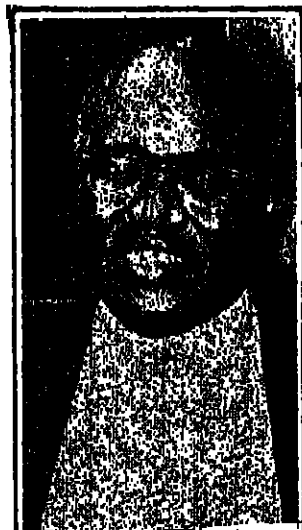
Bishop Etemesi was recently in the news accusing the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCCK) of involvement in manoeuvres to impose someone from the minority tribes as the next archbishop of the CPK.

According to the CPK constitution, which has undergone a number of amendments recently including the one allowing for the election of the archbishop even when some of the sees do not have bishops, the archbishop automatically becomes the bishop of Nairobi Diocese.

Nairobi Diocese is the seat of the CPK headquarters and hosts the All Saints Cathedral. In the 210-member electoral college, it is allocated an additional 12 members on the assumption that the election of the archbishop is also the election of the bishop of Nairobi.

Sources told Target that Nairobi Christians would prefer to have one of their own as their bishop as opposed to the archbishop being the bishop of Nairobi.

With the forced exit of Bishop George Muriu Ngunjiri from



Bishop Gitari



Bishop Wasonga



Bishop Kwasia



Bishop Nzimbi



Bishop Etemesi



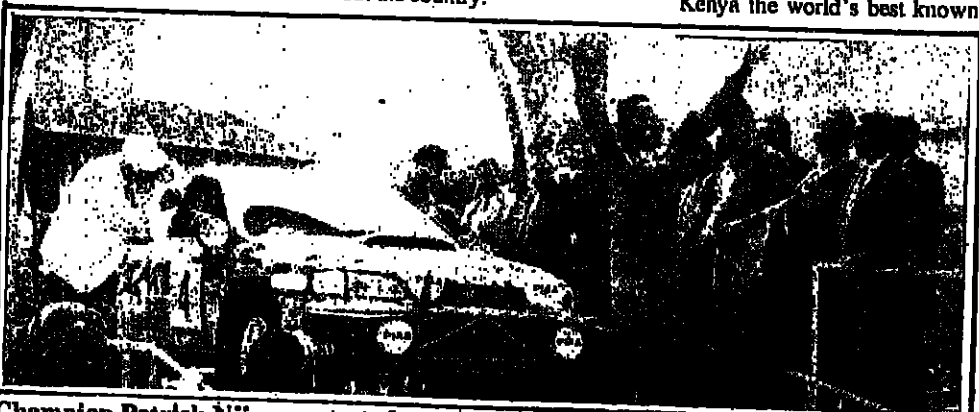
Bishop Njenga



Mr. Karuki



(Ret.) Archbishop Kuria



Champion Patrick Njiru waves to fans at the start of this year's Safari Rally.

Njiru out of Equator Rally

The annual Caltex Equator Rally starts on October 5, this time minus big names like Patrick Njiru (national champion) and veteran Jonathan Toroitich.

The two-day event, slotted for October 5 and 6, will be opened by Zambia's Satwant Singh, according to the draw list released last week by the Kenya Motor Sport Club (KMSC).

Phineas Kimathi will also not take part in the rally. Njiru has virtually won the Kenyan National Rally Championship (KNRC) by enjoying 80 points

above the formidable Toroitich, perhaps which is the reason why he has opted out of the Caltex Rally.

Njiru won the Toyota 500 rally last August and with the Jamburi Rally being the only event left in the local motorsport calendar, Njiru will certainly enjoy a walk-over at the end of the year.

Jonathan, popularly known as "JT" recently sold his Toyota Celica GT Turbo to Uganda's Emmanuel Kato, who will start fifth in the Caltex event. Sources

say that his new Toyota Celica ST 2 Turbo is yet to arrive in the country a reason why he will stay out of this weekend's event.

Interesting Kenyans to watch in this rally include Daewood's Maluki Ndeti and entrants number 36, photojournalist Mutui Mwangi and Steve Gacharo in a Mazda 323.

The Caltex Rally will also feature a Range Rover entered by Richard Fosse in number 33 and a Land-Rover 110 driven by Tanzania's Andrew Dole, who will be the last to leave in position 38.



Mr Mwicigi

Oppositionist tips Kanu on winning next year's elections

From Page 1

the country, even in prisons sick people do not vote. There are no drugs in almost all government hospitals and prisoners have no medical attention or clothing.

5) Eradicate wanton speculative land grabbing. A lot of potential voters are being evicted from their children's school and public playgrounds taken by so-called developers.

Many of the developers get allocations and Title Deeds from employees of Kanu or its leadership. Land grabbing victims will not vote for Kanu just like the ethnic clashes victims did not vote for the party in 1992.

6) Allow constitutional reforms and repeal all colonial archaic laws which were and are now used to oppress wananchi.

7) Stop promotion of tribalism through the creation of new administrative units.

8) Stop the culture of lies and anti multiparty democracy. Bashing pluralism is bashing democratic and constitutional right to association.

9) Liberalize airwaves and let both Kanu and opposition radio and television stations operate. To date only Kanu activists have "qualified" for licences.

10) Improve transport infrastructure so that wananchi can sell their produce such as coffee, tea, maize and milk and go about their business properly. Bad roads and inaccessible areas will mean problem for farmers in rural areas and farmers are the majority of Kenyan voters.

11) Do not print paper money or engage in the YK'92-type operation with the resultant inflation and damage to the national economy and.

12) Ensure that ethnic clashes do not recur at all either in Rift Valley or elsewhere in the country. This pledge has been made by a Minister in the Office of the President, Mr. Kipkalya Kones. A clear statement from Kanu government will do much to allay a solitary voice, even from a minority.

Moi douses hopes on constitutional reforms

By Blamuel Njurui

President Daniel arap Moi has firmly slammed the door on the faces of democrats and constitutional reformists who have been wishing against hope that he would make good his 1995 New Year pledge for a review of the Constitution.

His Moi Day message to Kenyans and the world at large was that those seeking constitutional reforms have to wait until after the next general elections.

The Kenyan leader lost a lifetime opportunity to steer the country into a democratic and peaceful course of constitutional reform at the most crucial opportunity a statesman would grab.

Dashing the hopes of millions of Kenyans both in the opposition and Kanu, Mr. Moi further demonstrated his adamancy in handling tricky political situations by failing to take advantage of a strategic day to commemorate his reign and announce next year's election date.

Only four days prior to Moi Day, some opposition leaders had dared the president to name the election date, which he treated as his secret weapon in 1992 although it was changed by the then opposition leader Jaramogi



President Moi... reneging on his 1997 New Year Day pledge.

Oginga Odinga in a court intervention.

The reluctance by Mr Moi to announce the election date, while at the same time telling Kenyans that there was not enough time for constitutional reform before the elections, smacks of a leader who is not ready to play fair on a level ground.

It has been pointed out

severely that even the Lancaster Conferences which formulated Kenya's independence constitution from the scratch did not need years of preparation. The same constitution has been tampered with and amended to create a monster of an executive presidency, which Kenyans dread and are afraid of inheriting from Mr Moi when he is defeated

in the next elections.

President Moi's obstinate option is seen by political observers as yet another dimension of his desperate efforts to cling to power by hook or crook. Such efforts have the tendency of developing dictatorial and autocratic survival instincts that lead to repressive tyranny, which may soon be unleashed on reformists who press on constitutional crusade.

Indeed, the stage appears to have been set with recent changes in President Moi's security detail and recurrent ethnic turmoil as seen on Kondoo farm.

Key positions

Two key security agents from the presidential guards have recently been transferred to the Kenya Wildlife Service and the Stock Theft Unit respectively in senior positions. The KWS commands vast areas of wild game parks and reserves as does the STU in parts of the Rift Valley and elsewhere.

The potential implications of organising guerrilla or warrior training is enough to send cold shivers down the spines of many Kenyans familiar with the ethnic cleansing between 1991-94 in the Rift Valley. After all, the Kondoo farm refugees are home-bred products of the ethnic clashes.

The two MPs were not alone in their defiance against the hitherto all-powerful Kanu supremo. Cabinet Minister Simon Nyanche and Kamwili Muniy holding the crucial Agriculture, Livestock and Marketing as well as Co-operative Development respectively, told Mr. Moi to stop meddling with the KCC and let its directors decide its fate. They were reinforced by former cabinet minister and now Assistant Minister James Ogo.

Rarely has Kanu ministers and MPs shown such open defiance on a matter that has far-reaching political implications for Kanu's survival. The voice and stand taken by the five and others in Kanu who were afraid of standing up to be counted, must be sweet music to the ears of opposition reformists who can perceive the wide cracks within Kanu and its leadership.

During the interview, Archbishop Kuria also castigated the government for its indulgence in devil worship matters.

"It's not the business of the state nor politicians to check the state of devil worship of the people. Only Christians led by the Holy Spirit can deal with the problem," he explained.

"They are picking such things because they are learning the game of stealing," says Ms Esther Nduku.

On the night before Moi Day, the residents of the two estates chased thugs for hours when they attempted to break into houses. Unfortunately none of the thugs was arrested.

During the chase, owners of plots with banana trees suffered losses as angry residents cut them down.

Cheap plots

The continued bashing of KCC by President Moi, like the general neglect of essential services and infrastructure around the country coupled with the wide-scale plunder of funds from government ministries and public institutions, should be taken as a good omen by the opposition. It is a clear indicator that more and more Kenyans

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Theatrical democrats censured

By Dorothy Munyakho

Hypocritical African leaders who posed as democrats to win Western donor funds have been heavily censured.

"Given that democracy is a prerequisite for foreign aid, many African dictators practise theatrical democracy aimed at satisfying those who watch from the Western gallery," Mr Rams Ramashia, the president of South African National NGO Coalition (SANGO) told the opening of a five-day conference on an enabling environment civil society in Johannesburg.

The meeting was jointly convened by SANGO, South Africa's Development Resources Centre (DRC) and Mwengo (Acronym for Mwelekeo wa NGO - Kiswahili for NGO consortium) to develop a policy framework that enables civil society organisations to contribute to development without undue state interference.

Turning to the conference, Ramashia stressed NGOs' responsibility to facilitate the development of a jurisprudence, which recognises the value that civil society organisations add to the development process.

Such regulatory framework must promote democracy, openness, transparency and accountability. Legislation should not aim at controlling civil society but at liberating it. "It must not be aimed at destroying civil society but at promoting its vibrancy. If it is meant to be used by ordinary people, it would have to be simple and user-friendly," Ramashia said.

The conference comes in the wake of a Commonwealth Foundation-sponsored workshop in May, which sought to improve relations and promote collaboration between governments and NGOs in the ESA region. The workshop sought to commit NGO and government participants to implement the Foundation's Guidelines for Good Policy and Practice.

At a time when NGOs are faced with major administrative and legal problems, great demands and pressures are being placed on the sector, whose role in social and economic development is growing. Because the legal frameworks within which NGOs operate are inadequate, questions persist about their independence, transparency and accountability.

In spite of the great expectations on the sector, NGOs operate within a hostile environment where tax

regulations, for instance, provide inadequate preferences to ensure their ongoing financial sustainability. Regulations governing fund raising are also excessively restrictive and bureaucratic.

alternative political and social justice discourses.

The Johannesburg conference was premised on the fact that developing sound laws and regulations is crucial to empowering the NGO sector and to continuing to enhance its ability to respond in an accountable and professional manner to the needs of the society.

Kenya was represented at the conference by the NGO Council Chief Executive Officer, Mr Murtaza Jaffer, two executive committee members Mr Salil Shetty of Action Aid-Kenya and Ms Dorothy Munyakho of Interlink Rural Information Service.

Jaffer, a lawyer by profession, was involved in the conference preparatory process on behalf of Mwengo, which is assisting Tanzania, Malawi and Madagascar develop NGO-specific laws.

Interlink Rural Information Service

There will be over 38 exhibitors drawn from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and the United Kingdom. The latest development in information technology will be exhibited as the Christian Churches are well ahead in using modern technology to spread the gospel.

The reason why exhibitions in the United Kingdom have been successful is that churches have difficulty finding out about all the many resources they need, as do mission centres and schools. By bringing all the resources into one space for three days the job is made infinitely easier.

Africa is a major recipient of financial resources and the exhibition provides a platform upon which expenditure of these monies can be efficiently made while comparing different products and services on view.

The event is being supported by Christian churches of many denominations throughout Uganda and East Africa, while the exhibition itself is organised jointly by the United Kingdom office of the pioneers of the Christian Resources Exhibition, and their Kampala office run by ACLAIM Africa Ltd whose managing consultant was, until last year, general director of Scripture Union UK. There is still a limited amount of stand space available in the exhibition.

December is a key period in the Christian calendar and the exhibition date has been carefully planned to help churches and schools at the best possible time before Christmas.

— APS

enhance ability

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Christian resources fair for Kampala

By a correspondent

The first ever exhibition of Christian Resources is to be held at the Sheraton Hotel, Kampala, 4-6 December, 1996. This new venture is being built upon the 12-year success story of Christian resources exhibitions that have been held in different cities throughout the United Kingdom.

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Sprucing up: A City Council employee refurbishes the statue of the founding father of the Kenyan nation, the late Jomo Kenyatta, outside the KICC in readiness for Kenyatta Day. — Picture by Charles Manthai.

Cold water thrown on reforms

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including President Moi's Kalenjins are being alienated from Kanu and its dismal performance over the last four years.

Evidently Kanu has no track record to endear itself to the electorate as having mended its prodigal behaviour during the multi-party era. In the last four years billions of shillings have been looted from the poor men's National Social Security Fund, through the purchase of cheap plots and the National Hospital Insurance Fund, through diversion into a bank owned by a top politician's son.

Other landmarks of Kanu's economic mismanagement and open corruption, which even President Moi has owned up and

called on the civil service and the police to put an end, include:

i) The Goldenberg scam involving the theft of Sh 32 billion, which was 75 per cent of government budget and solely responsible for the collapse of the Kenya shilling making consumer products and services expensive.

ii) Plunder of the Sh 5 billion as the cost of NSSF building originally estimated to cost Sh 500 million. The money was enough to build enough low cost housing for Kibera and Mathare slums; or construct a four-lane highway from Mombasa to Kisumu - the vital Trans-Africa highway totally neglected by the Kanu government so that it can beg foreign loans.

iii) Theft of Sh 9.5 billion from Post Bank and NSSF for

Youth for Kanu (YK '92) for Kanu's 1992 re-election.

iv) Theft of Sh 3 billion from the Kenya National Assurance, including Sh 180 million deposited in collapsed banks that eventually led to the closure of the insurance firm and loss of nearly 2,000 jobs.

v) Looting of the Nyayo Bus Corporation built on free buses, spare parts, donations and cheap labour from the National Youth Service, until it collapsed.

Down the memory lane of the Kanu government: extravagant plunder are such milestones as the Turkwell Gorge Dam project in which Sh 7.5 billion were sunk some of it to finance elections in France, the Kisumu Molluscs Plant (Sh 2.2 billion), failed Nyayo mill and KCC's Sh 1.8 billion, Bank of Commerce

Credit International (BCCI) - Sh 5 billion and many more - all leading to the deprivation and impoverishment of millions of Kenyans to create a handful of billionaires.

Such billionaires were recently seen competing to outdo each other at the Nairobi International Show while ripping out cheques and credit cards to buy Sh 9 million cars in the midst of poverty. The billionaires were mingling with thousands of children and their former parents who could not afford a decent meal because the agricultural sector has been run down by the Kanu government.

With such a track record one wonders why progressive Kenyans cannot put their dot together and show the Kanu regime the door out.

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'The truth shall set you free'

Dealing with problems of hunger, malnutrition

"Every man, woman and child has the inalienable right to be free from hunger and malnutrition in order to develop their physical and mental faculties." This was the clarion call during the 1994 World Food Conference.

The call should be uppermost in the minds of world leaders who gather at the Food, Agriculture Organisation (FAO) headquarters in Rome on November 13-17. Their discussions will centre on giving new impetus to the fight for food security by focusing the attention of policy and decision makers in the public and private sectors and the general public as well as on the policies and actions to ensure food for all.

In a nutshell, the Rome summit is aimed at increasing production to meet the needs of a growing world population, generating employment and providing assistance to give people access to the food produced.

Locally, the summit comes at a time when the country is facing serious food shortages in the arid and semi-arid areas of Eastern and North Eastern provinces, where several hunger-related deaths have been reported.

In theory, the world produces enough food for everyone. But the food does not reach many millions. It is estimated that 800 million people in developing countries are chronically undernourished and that nearly 11 million children under the age of five die as a direct or indirect result of hunger and malnutrition. Millions more suffer from diseases related to diets deficient in vitamins and minerals essential for health and development.

The problem of hunger is well understood in this country. Indeed, this problem is at times politicised with the party in power often criticised for using food as a weapon against the opposition and as a bait to lure votes among the victims of hunger.

In our case, hunger stalks the rural poor especially the landless and pastoralists and slum dwellers in urban areas.

According to the FAO, to achieve national food security, a country must not only produce, store or import the food it needs but also take measures to ensure equitable access to it, meaning that nutritionally adequate and safe food supplies must be available to meet each person's daily energy and nutrient needs. Further, the supplies must be stable and accessible to everyone. And the kinds of food must be culturally acceptable.

Food insecurity is essentially a result of poverty. However, it is the way food production is managed that brings the kind of problems Kenya at times faces. While food could be going to waste in places like the Rift Valley and Western Province areas hardly 500 kilometres away could be reporting scores of hunger-related deaths.

Again, politics comes into play when well-connected individuals export food leaving their own countrymen to starve. As the technocrats and politicians meet in Rome in a month's time, it is aspects such as new crop varieties, use of new crop varieties, use of new technologies, improved irrigation and pest control methodologies that specialists at grassroot level should emphasise as a way of ensuring food security.

Increasing the per capita output should be the essential thing, because aspects like land and water resources are finite. Activities that degrade the productive potential of land and water resources should be outlawed.

It is our hope that the Rome summit will come up with ideas that promote an all-around approach to crop and animal production aimed at achieving the universal goal of "Food for All".

WHAT OTHERS SAY

"To begin to really communicate with the world around us, with the authorities above us, with our bosses, with those of other races and faiths, demands a type of humanity and strength that very often threatens people. The churches have narrowed the subject of communication, and treat it as an instrument for preaching the Gospel, failing to see it as a dimension of life. Journalists today are vulnerable, often badly treated by their superiors who want them to be public relations officers. They need a community of professional friends from the cultures they defend them when life gets tough." Albert van den Heuvel, the new president of World Association for Christian Communication.



Destitution for all to witness: Mary Chaki Wangul, aged 5, has a hole in her heart and requires urgent surgery. She sips soda as she begs for funds to enable her to go to hospital. Hers is a bridge too far in this city, one might say. But we hope that the donors of millions in various functions across the country will be touched and come to her assistance.



MAILBOX



Case for 1997 polls boycott

The participation in next year's elections before constitutional changes are effected will be tantamount to the installation of constitutional dictatorship.

Kanu has put in place various ways of rigging the elections. These include President Moi's assertion that only new look IDs will be accepted in 1997 general election.

This is amplified by the slow pace of the issuance of the document in opposition strongholds unlike in Kanu strongholds where IDs are easily acquired and mobile registration is carried out on a door-to-door basis.

The unconstitutional creation of new administrative units based on ethnic and clan consideration in Kanu strongholds as well as in areas where certain communities turned against the opposition due to Kanu policies of intimidation, blackmail and harassment is another factor and so is the government's failure to liberalise the electronic mass media as well as denying Kenyans the right of starting their own private broadcasting houses.

Then there are Kanu 'rigging agents' who insist that only parliament can undertake constitutional changes and after the 1997 general election. Kenyans should know that since Kanu failed to garner the two-thirds majority by buying defectors, it is embarking on an uneven playing ground so as to dominate the business of parliament and effect constitutional amendments aimed at protecting the autocratic presidency.

I urge Kenyans to save themselves from these evil designs by boycotting the 1997 general election if all hurdles hindering democratisation are not cleared.

It should be noted that it was Moi himself who early last year promised Kenyans constitutional changes and that he was to invite foreign constitutional legal experts to assist in re-writing the constitution.

Hischel government adviser, Amos Wako, was earlier quoted as saying the constitution would be changed through national convention.

It looks like all those pronouncements were intended to hoodwink local and international communities.

Joseph Mutua, Nairobi

The Editor,
Target
Box 45009
Nairobi.

Share power and opportunities

Churches in this country should pay more attention to the position of women in society and take it more seriously both in the sphere of theological doctrine and in all areas of life.

Specifically, it means that churches must learn to share power and opportunities and talk about unpopular issues such as violence against women, sexual abuse and rape.

They must not close their eyes to the fact that these things happen in churches as well. There are wife-beating husbands among Christians, for instance.

The suppression of women cannot be justified by quoting the Bible as if it were the most natural thing to do. Churches can only be convincing if they become a community of people who enjoy equal status and equal rights.

Time is running out if what women consider to be appropriate by the end of this century is to be achieved - 50 per cent of those involved in governance and decision-making should be women.

Rebecca Makong, Nairobi.

Military intervention doesn't bring peace

Developments in such far-flung countries like Bosnia and Somalia show clearly that outside military intervention does not bring peace to a country.

Diplomacy has proved that it is the germ that should always be injected in war or war-threatening situations. It has worked in many parts of the world especially in countries such as Angola and Mozambique during post-independence era.

Diplomacy is frustrating at times. It requires patience and is time-consuming. It also demands that arm-twisting initiatives be employed where applicable.

I think that if more attention is given to diplomacy, it will definitely solve global problems where all else has failed.

Julius Nguni, Kenyan University

Flaws in 8-4-4 system

As the furore over the 8-4-4 system of education continues, nobody seems to care that it is the less brilliant and often mediocre students who benefit from the confusion.

While it should take four years to complete a Bachelor's degree course at our universities, it does in fact take up to six years or more to do so with the present semester arrangement. The best students with mean grades of B- and above take six years to complete their Bachelor degree courses compared to the less brilliant ones who go abroad and take three years for their first degree and one year for their Masters.

They return home before their more brilliant colleagues get their first degree. And out of this confusion it is those poor students who take up the limited jobs or register for postgraduate courses and get opportunities to teach either in local schools and colleges or in public universities, an area which should be reserved for the high achievers only.

I fail to see why everyone is up in arms at the poor performance of our graduates who are today popularly referred to as half-baked when the problem leading to their unsuitability is

Ignored wananchi at own risk

Political events in Kenya remind me of the Russian history under Czar (Emperor) Nicholas II from 1894 to 1917. Nicholas was a charming and well intentioned person but he was also politically weak and unreliable.

Nevertheless, Russia made economic progress and became a major industrial power during his reign with the help of loans from other countries.

Russia entered the World War I allied to France and England. Soon terrible military defeats followed. Yet Nicholas, ill-advised by reactionaries, continued to neglect demands for reforms.

A particular reactionary was a Siberian peasant who had gained the reputation of a saint and enjoyed a huge influence on Nicholas II. Rasputin, as that

glaringly obvious. The shortcomings of the present 8-4-4 system of education are numerous, but the most important one however is that students are not encouraged to compete for opportunities by preparing themselves to be the best while the Government wants to be seen to give all students a chance. In certain courses competition is designed such that there are no failures. This only encourages mediocre performance.

Granted, the 8-4-4 system of education is a good educational programme as it restricts the total duration a student takes before he obtains his first degree to 16 years in line with the other educational systems in other parts of the world.

Indeed, Kenyans who obtained their degrees in the 1950s and early 1960s followed, an 8-4-4 system whereby they spent the first eight years in primary and intermediate school followed by four years at secondary school. After school certificate or 'O' levels they proceeded to Makerere for their degree course which took 4 years.

Mwalimu Barack Nyamango, JGD, MBE, Shanzu Teachers College

National News

Creation of many dioceses cause of problems

A report by the Anglican Church of Uganda indicates that the formation of many dioceses is the cause of financial problems in the province.

This was disclosed by the Church of Uganda Provincial Secretary, the Rev Canon William Magambo, in a press interview on September 14.

He said the House of Bishops had decided that no new dioceses would be formed within the existing ones in the province until 1998.

Rev Magambo was reacting to report that Kamuli and Iganga archdeaconries in Busoga Diocese, eastern Uganda, which support Bishop Cyprian Bamwoze's leadership, were seceding from Busoga Diocese and forming their own fully-fledged dioceses.

A leadership wrangle in Busoga has been going on for the last four years with one section of the laity saying they did not recognise the Rev Bamwoze as bishop.

The House of Bishops, under the chairmanship of Archbishop Livingstone Nkoyoyo decided two months ago to retire Bishop Bamwoze prematurely in February next year, to allow the cooling off of tempers.

Bishop Bamwoze is currently on forced sabbatical leave until next year. He is to retire in 1997 although he would be reaching the retirement age a year later.

The retirement of Bishop Bamwoze seems not to have satisfied all parties concerned. No sooner was the bishop's retirement made public than several archdeaconries supporting him announced they would form new dioceses, separate from Busoga Diocese.

Two years ago, a committee set up by the House of Bishops to look into the problems of Busoga Diocese, recommended that the diocese be split into three dioceses so that Bishop Bamwoze could take one where he had support. But the Bishop and his supporters as well as enemies said they were opposed to the splitting up of the diocese.

Two years ago, there were efforts to create more sees in the central region kingdom of Buganda so that the kingdom could set up its own province, independent of the province of the Church of Uganda.

Rev Magambo said due to demands from several parts of the country for the creation of new sees, the House of Bishops had instituted a committee to visit those places which want to form new dioceses and provide a report to be considered in 1998.

In a country with more than 40 ethnic groups, there has been a tendency in the church to create tribal bishops who have been seen to administer in their home regions.

Beware of lead poisoning

By Juma Kwayera

When Pretoria re-shipped to Kenya a consignment of omena, a popular dried fish among the Luo and Luyia of Western and Nyanza provinces, some time ago, the complaint was that the cargo was excessively leaded.

South Africans would not feed their cattle on contaminated food, and as a result, Kenya lost millions of shillings in foreign exchange because of lack of strict observance and enforcement of environmental health laws and standards.

Concerned with the dangers of lead, Kenyan researchers are now pooling data to show Kenyans the dangers they are exposing themselves to.

At a recent Environmental Exhibition at the French Cultural Centre, Mrs Mary Kinoti, a Kenyatta University Environmental lecturer, disclosed to participants how Kenyans' popular foods such as cabbage, sukuma wiki (kales) and arrow roots have excessive levels of toxic lead.

The World Health Organization (WHO) limits the Provisional Weekly Tolerable Intake (PWTI) of lead to below 50 per 25 micrograms of human body weight.

Kinoti stunned participants when she said *sukuma wiki* and cabbage consumed in Nairobi have the highest presence of toxic lead, which the unformed urban dwellers continue to ingest.

But Dr W.N. Wamicha warns: "The results will only start manifesting after a generation or two." The Kenyatta University lecturer says that in the absence of stringent control measures to free the environment of contamination, human beings are dangerously exposed to toxic substances.

Wamicha, a lecturer in environmental studies, says lack of national commitment to sustainable use of environmental resources is holding back awareness creation.

"Reckless disposal of industrial waste, particularly leaded emissions from motor vehicle, is pumping a lot of lead and other dangerous substances into the human body through the atmosphere and the soil," he says. The worst environmental abuse is on the roads where people are exposed to lead exhaust gases, he adds.

Environmental Hazards of Heavy Metals, a United Nations Environment Programme publication, states that food is the main source of lead intake for mammals and birds, although long retention of airborne lead depends on the size of the particles and the respiratory volume.

Lax approach

Lead poisoning, states the UNEP publication, is likely to damage the brain, causing renal failure, and anaemia. Other episodes of concern include mental retardation in children and reproduction in adults.

Wamicha asserts that some of the fatal road accidents in Nairobi may be linked to heavy ingestion of lead. "Inhaled lead causes drowsiness and consequently a fall in concentration." In Nairobi, with 68 per cent of the country's registered motor vehicles, the cocktail of fumes released into the atmosphere is dangerous to drivers.

"Lead is a non-biodegradable



The danger: Consumers of the cabbage are unaware of the high level of lead in their vegetable.

substance and therefore it cannot be easily discharged from the body," Wamicha explains.

A Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources official, who requested anonymity said that given our lax approach to sound environmental policies, chances that cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and chicken consumed as meat are leaded are "very high."

These sources of meat should be subjected to some kind of "lead level test before they are let into the market. In Kenya, we dump the toxic gases in the atmosphere without realising that we are part of the environment we are so quick to abuse but slow to redress."

He adds that in towns like Kisumu, Eldoret, Nakuru, Thika and Nairobi, plausible policies are needed to control environmental abuse. "These towns are industrialising fast and the environment should not be left at the mercy of mindless investors," he suggests.

In Kisumu, the origin of the omena cargo that South Africa rejected, Prof George Ongwenyi stresses the need to maintain quality standards and to reach an agreement on safe utilisation of marine resources.

Lake Victoria is the largest source of the protein-rich fish consumed in East and Central Africa. Continued discharge of leaded effluent into the lake could adversely affect East African economies since such presence defies international standards, Ongwenyi warns.

Recent research conducted in

the United States and published in March 1996 in the scientific journal, *Environmental Health*, says that minimal exposure to lead accounts for a "40 per cent drop of semen count in men, testicular cancer and premature ovarian failure in women."

States the research: "It is not known how the dysfunctions are initiated; the best known examples of endocrine-disrupting chemicals are those associated with, or mimicking female sex hormone activity." As a neurotoxicant, the report points out that lead intensifies psychiatric and behavioral disorders.

An information scientist with the University of Nairobi ascribes the typical rowdiness of bus conductors and touts to lethal exposure to lead because the vehicles they use are poorly maintained and therefore they emit a lot of unburnt gases.

At most of Kenya's bus termini, leaded effluent is ejected into open spaces. Apart from being an eyesore, operators and most commuters know little about the toxicity of some of its constituents.

At the usually crowded Nairobi Country Bus Station (popularly known as Machakos Airport), travellers are largely unaware of the danger they are exposed to. Ms Jane Wainaina, a second-hand cloth seller, says casually: "We are used to the rumble of engines and the dirty waste discharged here. I do not know of any other danger."

Jane's ignorance is shared by

many others in rural villages and urban slums where diesel engines are used to grind maize into flour and in factories.

A Nairobi environmental officer wonders why the government has not taken steps to impose a ban on leaded fuels. He says: "In developed countries, it is an offence to expose people to lead. Our constant foot-dragging on this matter is likely to cost us dearly in future."

The MNR officer laments that while the government has the machinery to impose the ban, it has previously shelved proposals to come up with control standards for a clean environment.

"A cave in point is the Clean Air Bill in the 1980s, which never went beyond the drafting stage," he says. "No wonder leaded fuels are consumed in the country and even exported."

Wamicha underlines the need for an environmental law. "The bus and pieces we have are only sectoral and do not adequately address environmental issues," he says. While the Traffic Act, for example, bans smoking vehicles from plying the roads, the police rarely act on polluters.

Consultations between MNR and the Ministry of Transport and Communications reached a stalemate because the latter fears losing vital revenue. These points of deviation are likely to delay the tabling of the draft bill on environment in Parliament or affect its outcome.

— Interlink Rural Information Service

Focus on women in anti-poverty crusade

By Seth Musisi

disproportionately represented among the poor households, and hence the need to focus on women and children in anti-poverty programmes.

And with respect to the ASAL areas, Gita said the people living in these areas constituted a special group in terms of high incidence of poverty.

He stressed that the physical isolation of these communities and poor infrastructure meant that general programmes and policies to support growth and build human capital did not normally reach them and that in times of drought they were especially vulnerable.

What is meant in effect, he said, was that the country was faced with limited linkages to

the rest of the economy, a deteriorating natural resource base, declining food security and deepening poverty.

"The continuation of this state of affairs is unacceptable to the government and thus there is the continuing need to come up with special programmes to increase the economic integration of the ASAL areas with the rest of the economy, enhance their human capital base and create adequate safety nets for times of drought," he said.

The workshop was told that what is essential was needed was the improvement of the lot of women and children with respect to certain indicators: and also improvement of ASAL development.

Saying that, a situational analysis of ASAL districts will

be extremely important in helping to tackle these inter-related problems areas, the director pointed out that this had been developed as a tool for planning interventions which will improve the lives of children and women.

He said the concept of situational analysis had been developed within the framework of the Convention of the Rights of the Child and that Kenya as a signatory had adopted the declaration on the survival, protection, development and participation of children.

The specific actions to be implemented under the convention focus also on action to combat preventable childhood diseases and programmes to address the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the provision of safe drinking water, improved household food

security and children's access to essential nutrients required for healthy growth, providing children with basic education and focusing attention on children in especially difficult circumstances, the workshop heard.

He assured the workshop that Kenya had already taken actions on this front and indeed a Situation Analysis on women and children was published in 1992 and that his office was in the process of preparing for a follow-up situational analysis to be carried out in 1997.

Said Gita: "This analysis will enable the government to take stock of what has been achieved since 1992 and identify new areas where additional efforts are needed to ensure all children enjoy their right."

Kanu gamble in C. Province

By Allan Ngwiri

With the announcement of new constituencies late last month by Justice (Rtd) Zacharia Chasoni's Electoral Commission, surprises if any, must have been elsewhere other than Central Province.

Except for Nyandarua district, most political observers had prior intimations that new constituencies would be carved out in Thika, Murang'a and Kirinyaga districts precisely because those are the places where the Kanu hierarchy felt it had the greatest prospects of obtaining parliamentary seats come the next elections.

Nothing was expected for Nyeri which does not seem to have "formidable" Kanu stalwarts of the type president Daniel arap Moi seems to want to work with these days or perhaps there was the feeling that the DP-held district was too firmly sewn to be won by Kanu.

For Nyandarua, the hiving off of Ol Kalou constituency from the larger Ndaruga seems to have come out from the blues and for the express interest of one person, Committee member Francis Ngunah.

Since the ignominious defeat of Kanu by the DP in neighbouring Kipipiri in a by-election in 1995, a defeat which created serious repercussions nationally, nothing much has been heard, politically, from the district and, for obvious reasons, few in Kanu want to remember, or would like a repeat of, the debacle there.

Embrace Kanu

Nyandarua aside, the big question is why Kanu, by obviously pre-ordaining the creation of seats where it believes it holds some luck, want to believe against all odds that it can now obtain some triumphs where it performed dismally in the '92 contests? What may have changed to warrant this faith?

Political analysts are pondering these questions because despite all the make-believe noises by Kanu functionaries in the province that people there are now eager to embrace Kanu, not an iota of evidence has been adduced to support these assertions. To the contrary, the years in-between 1992 and 1997 have given ample credence, and proof that most Kanu promises were just empty rhetoric and that in reality, the party has not really changed its colours.

Indeed, all that has been amply demonstrated is that the government is still eager to put its citizens within the dark confines of authoritarianism which is what, despite all other spurious contentions, the people of the region and elsewhere were opposed to.

The repeated arrests and harassment of opposition MPs, the breaking-up of meetings of those campaigning in outraged public defiance as was the case in Mwea; earlier this year, and the continuing turmoil in the pastoral sector have not done much to foster any of



Mr Kamotho



Mr Kibaki



Mr Matiba



Mr Muigai



Mr Kanyingi



Mr Ndegwa

the precious few good feelings that may exist for Kanu there.

Of course, political spin doctors from within Kanu have been working round the clock to portray the false picture to the president that Kikuyu, whose commercial proclivities transcend their political inclinations, would want to return to Kanu under Moi if arrangements were made to foster and guarantee their economic activities. This despite the fact very little indeed, only negatively has been done to this end.

The biggest falsehood that has been peddled to Moi by the likes messrs Joseph Kamotho and Kuria Kanyingi is that the Kikuyus voted for opposition parties because of the multiparty euphoria of the early '90 including the now-famous 'Matiba-wave' that saw FORD-Asili nearly trouncing Kanu.

What the president may never have fully understood, (but may now be doing given the curious anti-Ntimama stances he is reported to be taking) is the extent of bitterness the Kikuyus felt against the Moi administration during the heinous, politically-instigated ethnic clashes of 1991-93 in Rift Valley principally against their cousins there.

Perpetrated with the narrow-mindedness and short-sightedness that has hallmarked a lot of decisions made by the Rift Valley mafia, the ethnic war saw that brutal removal of mainly Kikuyus from parts of the Rift Valley, ghastly sight of murdered bodies still reverberates aftermath, few forget the cold-blooded dumping of poverty-stricken souls in various parts of

Central Province on, all days, Christmas Eve.

But the bid blood between the president, his men and the Kikuyus go back a bit further than that. Despite Moi's oft-stated view that since he became the president, he has done a lot for them, the Kikuyus to a man believe otherwise. They recall with disbelief that barely a few years after Moi succeeded Mzee Jomo Kenyatta as president with the decisive backing of the powerful Attorney-General Charles Njonjo, and other Kikuyu stalwarts like George Githii, the then influential editor of the 'Nation' and the civil security services which were at the beck and call of Njonjo, Moi did not hesitate to use Njonjo to wipe out most of the top Kikuyu cadre in government and government-associated businesses before hounding out "Sir" Charles himself.

The flight of a large number of Kikuyu "disident" academics and other professionals followed by the notorious Mwakanya affair did no good to the president's image in the area.

Neither did the systematic destruction of the Kikuyu agricultural economy in the coffee and tea sectors (much like what, strangely, is happening now with the KCC/dairy industry), the drastic removal of most other Kikuyus remaining in government service and the suspicious collapse of Kikuyu-dominated indigenous banks.

Clearly, revisionist history and political re-engineering

aside, the seeds of the Kikuyu-dominated quest for a multi-party system did not stem from when Kenneth Matiba and Charles Rubia came on the scene but from all these retrogressive activities against the community.

Because of their numerical size, their spirited entrepreneurial drive, and their strategic place in the economic and political affairs of this country, the Kikuyus remain a decisive force that no one can ignore.

Yet these systematic policies against them have seen a huge section of them become more impoverished.

Because of the profound reverence the people of Gatundu have for the late Mzee (their first MP) and his widow, Mama Ngũga, Kanu strategists believe that despite the overwhelming disdain the Gatundu people have for Kanu, they will vote for Uhuru out of respect for Mzee. Sources from Gatundu indicate that this is a big possibility for the area

infrastructure including schools, become third rate and their say in national affairs left with the rantings of Kanu's Kamotho, the only senior Kikuyu who fortuitously found his way into government through nomination.

Against this backdrop, it will be a fake crystal ball's chance of Kanu even now winning any seat in Central.

Sensing the heavy odds he faces despite his double-speak, education Minister Kamotho has moved from Kangema hoping that the new Mathioya would be a boon for him. But even there both the influence of the DP in neighbouring Ohaya and FORD-Asili in the rest of Murang'a may not stand him in good stead. His failure to garner any seat in recent civic by-elections in his home turf, which he had engineered, must be a pointer to what may be expected. And just because the '92 euphoria is not there now, come electioneering time, it is likely as not will resurface.

The same goes with the new Olkalou and Kerugoya/Katus constituencies. While the latter may have been aimed for the formidable Lt. Philip Ndegwa, it is not certain that the person positioned there by Kanu, Mr Ngata Kariuki, the Kirinyaga Kanu Chairman, will carry the same impact particularly given the recent hostility shown against the government in the Mwea episode.

The only twinkle in Kanu's eye so to speak, could be in Gatundu. There, the new Gatundu North constituency has been hived off from the larger Gatundu obviously for the express purposes of Kenyatta's son, Uhuru.

Because of the profound reverence the people of Gatundu have for the late Mzee (their first MP) and his widow, Mama Ngũga, Kanu strategists believe that despite the overwhelming disdain the Gatundu people have for Kanu, they will vote for Uhuru out of respect for Mzee. Sources from Gatundu indicate that this is a big possibility for the area

people have nothing to pick on the young Kenyatta who has never been involved in Kanu politics or underhand activities anyway.

Up to now though, there seem to be some serious complications arising from the set-up. And this arises from where Uhuru is expected to stand if he does. Some reports had earlier indicated that a possible Uhuru entry into politics would be via the new Kamwari Division/Gatundu North constituency where his only major contestant would be the lacklustre Kamuri Gita of FORD-Asili. Gita is one of those previously obscure politicians who rode the Matiba wave.

Yet it also appears to be the target of another exile returnee, Clement Gachanja, whose tenure in Nairobi Kanu politics aimed so arduous he fled to Gatundu. His seemingly interminable activities in the area indicate he is ready to stand there.

This leaves the old Gatundu South where, if Uhuru stands, he will definitely have to fight it out with his first cousin and former area MP, Ngegi Muigai. Besides, the fact that this would split the Kenyatta family right down the middle as inevitable, the family feud would tear apart Gatundians like no other.

For Kanu, it would be a debatable wisdom to pit the two, Ngegi, the older, more seasoned, and definitely more charismatic of the two cousins, remains highly popular in the area. His political network still exists or could be revised easily.

In his heyday, he was more or less like Mzee's son and he is still viewed that way. In such a contest, therefore, it will be two Kenyattas sons vying for the same seat at different parties.

The prospect of Uhuru then vying on a Kanu seat and wining against opposition's Ngegi in a stoutly opposition area are not too bright.

For Kanu to win in Central Province then, it may require the services and wizardry of a magicians to turn the formidable tables.



Take heart... Kikuyus evicted from Endosupukia at Kirigiti Stadium, Kiambu, where they were dumped on Christmas eve.

Bill on social security coming, says Masinde

By Seth Musisi

A bill has been prepared to provide for the creation of a retirement benefits regulatory authority. The authority is expected to become an umbrella regulatory framework for monitoring the operations, range and quality of the benefits offered by the myriad of social security institutions in the country. Labour and Manpower Development Minister Philip Masinde told an inter-regional training seminar on "Social Security Statistics for Actuarial and Financial Management" at a Nairobi hotel.

The minister admitted that lack of such an umbrella authority had exposed social security institutions to operate in isolation of each other, hence vital data that could be of immense value collectively was either unavailable or was maintained separately and often haphazardly.

He told the 39 participants drawn from 18 countries in English-speaking Africa, Asia, the Pacific and the Caribbean, that the developing countries were still largely the periphery of the information super highway, yet they could not expect to manage social security institutions without the necessary skills and technology to capture, process and analyze the massive data which is usually associated with social security.

The seminar was told that Kenya had both public and private social security-oriented organizations. These include the civil service pension scheme, local authorities superannuation

and provident funds, Armed Forces Pension Scheme, National Hospital Insurance Fund and workmen's compensation scheme.

The chairman of the national organizing committee, Mr Samuel Muindi, said that social security schemes were required by statutes establishing them to be valued by an actuary at prescribed intervals, a requirement similar to the obligation to have annual audits of accounts.

Mr Muindi, who is also the managing trustee of the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), explained that while accounting audits were common to most organizations and their necessity and purpose generally understood and appreciated, periodic actuarial valuations of social security schemes were frequently regarded as esoteric.

This uncertainty occurred in part because the public was less familiar with actuarial valuations than with account audits. The seminar, expected to end on October 18, was the first of its kind in Kenya and Africa as a whole on actuarial valuations. It tackled statistical techniques, social security statistics necessary for the preparations of tables and series used in actuarial valuations, as well as demographic, financial and actuarial methods.



The managing trustee of NSSF, Mr Samuel Muindi addresses the conference participants.

NCKK to present '97/98 budget policy proposals

By a correspondent

The National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCKK) will present to the government policy proposals which it hopes will have a serious bearing on the 1997/98 national annual budget.

And to make sure that the proposals are reasonably comprehensive and far-reaching, the NCKK has scheduled a four-day workshop at the Limuru Conference and Training Centre.

The workshop which takes place from 4th-8th November, this year, aims at enhancing the knowledge and understanding by the participants of national economic issues, Grace Ibuti, Economic Secretary of the NCKK Advocacy Unit, told this reporter.

She said the workshop will address a number of issues which will include national politico-

economic environment within which policies are framed; national economic issues with regard to corruption, resources mismanagement and accountability; the role of various civil society bodies in influencing politico-economic policy environment.

Ibuti also said the participants will get to know and understand what 'Structural Adjustment Policies' (SAPS) actually mean, their role and impact. The workshop will highlight on the role of the government in a liberalized economy, the source of high taxation and how this affected the standard of living.

Resource persons have been invited from local universities as well as NCKK itself. Ibuti said the participants will include women representatives, youth leaders and church leaders from all the nine regions of the council in the country.

Oxfam to spend Sh 50m in drought-hit Wajir

By a correspondent

The British government has set aside Sh 50 million this year to support a drought relief project through Oxfam, a relief and development NGO.

The project will help 30,000 vulnerable people in South Wajir, which is facing worsening drought conditions due to the failure of the long rains and following two years of inadequate rainfall.

Hunger is evident among members of the pastoralist community and there is the threat of severe malnutrition or starvation.

The British government, through the ODA, have responded by agreeing to fund an emergency relief project which involves the buying and distribution of general rations to 30,000 settled and pastoral

people. This supplementary feeding programme aims to prevent loss of life and improve health until the short rains arrive and conditions improve.

This Oxfam project has two other objectives. One is to assist the water department to maintain boreholes in the area by ensuring that no pumping equipment remained broken for more than 24 hours.

The second is to work with the District Social Dimensions of Development Committees to monitor nutritional levels amongst the pastoralist communities. If the short rains fail, Wajir will probably require major food assistance and the information gained from the nutritional surveys will be important for government and donors to ensure food is properly targeted.

Lottery craze sweeps across Africa

Today, most socio-economic statistics are grim and poverty is expected to increase. This is a dubious reputation that in our times applies only to Africa.

Yet, Africa is "also a continent on the march, full of promise," argues the United Nations Special Initiative on Africa that envisages the expenditure of US\$25 billion on developments on the continent in the next ten years.

This new optimism derives from among other things, "the implementation of structural adjustment programmes and economic reform measures to correct fundamental economic imbalances and support private sector development" in many countries in the last ten years or so.

But, either as a consequence, coincidence or both, with privatization and economic globalisation, a new industry has sprung up across Africa. Some call it the "new fangled and controversial craze."

Scratch-for-cash and similar lottery games that could turn winners into instant millionaires is the new craze. It is a very high-profile operation in some of the affected countries.

For critics, it is gambling pure and simple. Such critics note with concern that there is also a phenomenal growth in the number of casinos and other gambling houses or the establishment

of new ones where none existed before as in Uganda.

Through monopolistic legislation, many African countries established national lotteries to raise government revenue. Today the industry has not only been opened to private investors, but the formerly low-key national lotteries have been hyped to give them a new commercialised image. Economic reforms towards legislation have made profit repatriation easy.

Unpopular world

Benin, Togo, Ghana, Cameroon, Zaire, Uganda, Côte d'Ivoire and other countries have all been caught up in this new mania though to varying degrees. In Cameroon, the passion seems to be in "game rooms" equipped with gambling machines that have mushroomed especially in the two major cities, Douala and Yaounde. In Douala some workers are reported to have spent

their entire monthly pay in these rooms. But the end of the Cold War, the disintegration of the Soviet Empire, the collapse of ideological competition between communism and capitalism, and the subsequent emergency of a unipolar world order driven almost entirely by market forces caught Africa off-guard.

Market forces include "documented demand" for which investors then establish needful enterprises. They also include "induced demand" for which investors set up superfluous enterprises to incite consumption.

The second category of enterprises, of which gambling is one, are usually very risky but highly profitable. They abound in the more developed countries where the more basic needs are almost fully catered for.

The disjointed response to the gambling industry is typical of any off guard situation. In Uganda for instance, the House of Bishops of the Church of Uganda (Anglican) recently called on the government to ban scratch-for-cash lotteries.

Around the same time, however, Emmanuel Cardinal Waniye of the Catholic Church was reporting a donation of Uganda shilling 10,000,000 (US\$10,000) from the proprietor of the scratch-off popular Premier Lottery

Limited. Premier Lottery Limited began about six months ago and offers "double-chance" lotteries in regular series. One lottery ticket costs Uganda shilling 1000 (one US dollar) and on scratching, it allows a lucky buyer or holder to instantly win a brand new saloon car, pick-up or a cash prize ranging from UgSh 1000, to Sh 50,000,000 (US\$ 50,000) which is the jackpot or top prize.

Whether one wins or not at the scratching, the ticket is included in subsequent "superdraw" for the jackpot and other smaller prizes that include motor-cycles, bicycles, television and radio sets.

Premier Lottery has also created over 2000 jobs in 32 out of the country's 39 districts, paid UgSh 1.6 billion (US\$ 1 million) in taxes to the government, and contributed generously to worthy causes. Money paid in promotions and high profile advertisements to media and other outlets is also said to be in millions.

Spothir Ruperella, the Asian-Ugandan proprietor of the lottery is believed to have made millions of US dollars. On its part Premier Lottery Ltd claims it has created 272 millionaires and 32 car owners making Premier the lottery with the largest prizes paid out in

Africa.

The lotteries encouraged crimes and laziness, said the bishops, in a resolution at the end of their 13th Provincial Assembly on August 20.

Prior to the bishops' concern, a number of the country's Members of Parliament in the new legislature called for drastic control of the scratch-for-cash games, saying many people in the villages had abandoned productive labour to devote their energies to the lotteries.

The legislators in particular want the establishment of an age limit to gambling and call on the government to charge a more appropriate tax.

Ungodly operation

Elsewhere, the church is yet to come out with a clear and well-reasoned theological stand against gambling. In Ghana, however, like in Zaire, individual clergy and concerned citizens have spoken out against what one Ghanaian University doc, the Rev Dr B. Y. Quashie, called an "ungodly operation that distracts attention from family care, encourages laziness as people look to chance rather than hard work to solve their economic problems." It also makes the majority of stokers worse off, he said. — AFP Features

Sheltered eco-efficient homes under construction

Five earthsheltered eco-efficient homes are being built in the bowels of the earth at Hockerton, Britain's first subterranean hamlet. Electricity for the three-bedroom detached houses is to be generated by a wind turbine; solar panels are also being used to provide power for heating and lighting while water collected on site is to be used to encourage wildlife.

Sewage for each household is being purified by special lavatories which automatically turn it into compost. The partially buried houses will have one south-facing triple-glazed glass wall providing natural light and heat.

Installation for the dwellings comes from the surrounding earth which will also provide drought-free interiors. Less wasteful of energy than the average home the eco-houses will also discharge much lower emissions of carbon-dioxide.

Cordless office of the future

In a new city workplace the staff are nomadic, the office desks are pear-shaped and communication is by mobile phones and miniaturised battery-powered PC notebooks. The cordless office of the future has no paper nor a cable in sight.

With electronic technology comes new terminology. The Workplace is an office of (oratory) residence with common amenities for all to share. The desks, devoid of every personal belonging because they are available to anyone who wants to use them, are known as "peer-to-peer meeting pods."

There are "lay-bys" to rest notebook PCs or talk by mobile phone. The central "Technibank" beams radio waves and infrared data - facilitating video conferencing - to the PCs which are powered by two small alkaline or nickel-cadmium batteries.

Developed in collaboration with Hewlett-Packard and Ericsson the Workplace provides greater staff flexibility, speeds up business and reduces overhead costs.

The cordless technologies include the digitalization of phones which allow PBXs to have extensions without wiring; cableless local area networks within offices such as AT&T's WaveLAN and Olivetti's LAN Net3 system enabling PCs to communicate.

Firm close to oral insulin

Insulin taken orally, freeing diabetics from daily injections, is a step nearer after eight years of research by Cortec's international team.

Insulin is a peptide which usually has to be injected into the bloodstream through the skin.

diabetics can be controlled by diet and oral hypoglycaemic drugs of the sulphonylureas and biguanides groups. Insulin by mouth would benefit late-onset and new sufferers.

Cortec's successful phase one trial involved pigs which have a similar metabolism to humans. Phase Two, which is currently ongoing, is a human study with six volunteers participating in a placebo-controlled cross-over analysis.

The fasting healthy human

WORLD OF SCIENCE

volunteers are dosed with an oral insulin formulation via a tube into the small intestine.

If these experiments are successful subsequent trials, using tablets, will be undertaken with insulin-dependent diabetics.

The incidence of diabetes has tripled throughout the world since the mid-1980s. It is estimated there are now 100 million sufferers worldwide.

IN BRIEF

3D View of stuttering

Stuttering and other speech impediments are being treated with a high-tech helmet that gives a 3D (three dimensional) view of movements of the tongue. The helmet uses sensors attached to the tongue, lips and jaw to produce computer images of every move made during the forming of words. Researchers say this should allow them to explain what makes speech sound normal or abnormal. - LSP

Cell Destruction

Experiments have shown that low-cost aspirin both inhibited the growth of large bowel tumour cells and caused some of them to self-destruct. It was found to be most effective at inducing cell suicide in the more advanced malignant tumours.

It might be possible to use aspirin to develop a new class of anti-cancer treatments.

Skin Cancer

A lamp no bigger than a household toaster and costing a tenth of the price of a conventional laser has cured up to 95 per cent of skin cancers in recent tests. The 45-minute treatment is the result of more than five years photodynamic therapy research.

The lamp emits an arc of concentrated light that is channelled through a series of lenses before a flexible guide directs it to cancerous skin pretreated with a photosensitive drug. Doctors are now planning tests on other cancers.

Medical worries?

Patients in a doctor's waiting room will soon be questioning a computer about their medical problems, London's Julia Schofield Consultants has developed special computer software that will provide easy access to information through

languages and graphics displayed on a TV screen and supplemented by the voice-over of a doctor.

The system allows patients to question most aspects of their illness.

Merchants endanger Kakamega forest

By a correspondent

Kakamega forest is in danger of massive depletion. Covering some 28,199 hectares, the forest has already lost 600 ha through various illegal activities, according to the District Forest Officer, Mr Peter Mukira. Timber extraction, charcoal burning and illegal human encroachment are among the activities threatening the forest.

According to Mukira, the timber harvested from the forest is used for pisaaw milling and building posts. Charcoal burning is mainly an economic activity supplying the needs of major towns around. The areas worst hit are the south eastern part of the forest. These include Shumoli, Mukulusi and Senyende. The eastern parts of Kimangeli Hills, Kimbiri, Secheno and Mukuro Hills have not been spared either. Grazing along the banks of Isukhu River has also aggravated the deforestation problem.

The 1994-96 National Development Plan states that as at December 1992, the total land area under forestry plantations in Kenya was 159,000ha. "Land area under forest plantations has since declined by about 20 per cent per annum and no major improvements are expected within the Plan period mainly due to the opportunity cost of competing land uses," says an entry in the publication.

Gazetted indigenous forests are losing 5,000ha every year, adds the Kenya National Environment Action Plan (NEAP) while industrial and tree plantations have declined from 170,000 to 133,000ha in the last few decades.

According to the warden in-charge of Kakamega National Reserve, Mr David Muthui in his 1995 Annual Report, 146 persons were arrested and arraigned in court for various offences related to forest destruction incurring Sh 50,000 in fines. More arrests would have been made if transport was available, the report adds.

According to Mukira, the cost of re-afforesting one ha is over Sh 10,000. A re-afforestation programme would entail bush clearing, planning and weeding. Slashing and weeding have to go on continuously for four years.

Medicine people

But even as Kakamega forest is destroyed, the Kenya Forestry Master Plan 1995-2020 recommends that all gazetted forest remain reserved and only be allocated for "regulated multi-purpose forestry, using zoning concepts that do not endanger the conservation functions of the forest." This reservation will ensure conservation of the biodiversity and providing subsistence services mainly to locals.

Besides being home to various indigenous animals and plants, the forest offers recreational options and supplies timber and medicinal plants to the neighbouring communities. "We get most of our traditional herbs from the forest as this is the only area one can find indigenous trees," says Evans Ingoi, a farmer from the forest's neighbouring Kamira area. "Medicine people visit it from all over Kenya in search of herbs," he adds.

The forest is a source of livelihood not just for the people of Western Province, but Nyanza and Rift Valley as well. It acts as a great "rainmaker" ensuring the people in the region enjoy ample rainfall for agriculture. The forest harbours the Kakamega National Reserve which attracts tourists and thus revenue for the country. It forms part of the Western Kenya Tourist Circuit.

According to statistics from National Reserve Annual Report, the period between July 1994 to June 1995 the reserve received a total of 1,872 tourists. Of these, 1,838 were residents and 232 non-residents. During the period a total of Sh 50,960 was realised as government revenue. The sale of four guide books raised Sh 13,600. Total revenue raised during this year was Sh 64,560.

Mukira says a 1984 government ban on forest farming (the shamba system) made it difficult to tend the tree seedlings planted. "Destruction of the seedlings by weeds and rodents increased, leading to high maintenance costs," he said.

When the shamba system was operational, locals were allowed to erect some shelters and some farming in the forest while also tending the trees.

The Kakamega District Commissioner, Mr Peter Rabura says the early retirement scheme under the World Bank sponsored Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) has compounded the forest's problems. Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) Community Welfare Officer, Ms Anne Nambire says: "We are experiencing shortages of staff to help combat illegal encroachment on the forest. Indeed, we are unable to apprehend all the wrongdoers."

Farming purpose

"One possible solution to counter this seemingly difficult situation could be the introduction of Non-resident Cultivation (NRC) systems. Here, local residents living near the forests would be allocated land for farming purposes," Mukira says in his proposal to the Kakamega District development Committee (DDC).

Under this system, farmers will cultivate the land while living at their homes. As they prepare land for planting, the Forest Department will plant the tree seedlings alongside the farmers' food crops. Local people would then tend the trees alongside the food crops until they close the canopy.

The NRC idea has been well received by local residents. "There's an urgent need for

farmers to be allowed to practice the NRC if re-afforestation is to succeed in the staff shortage we have," DC Rabura says. Presently, locals are allowed to grow animals in the forest, thanks to the Shumalla's intervention. Shumalla is a Member of Parliament (MP) for Shinyanga borders the forest.

The NCR system has been quite successful in Meru, Transmara and Kwana. "Besides aiding re-afforestation, NRC create good neighbourliness between the and the forest. They would participate in afforestation," Mukira observes.

The local communities benefit from the forest. KWS, which has a school in the forest, has built two classrooms and furniture worth Sh 80,000 for Bukhaywa School in the 1995/96 financial year. Bukhaywa Secondary School got Sh 50,000 in the 1994/95 financial year.

Various youth and women's groups have been funded for tree nursery activities. According to Nambire, "All these benefits are towards creating local awareness in the, conserve the forest. The people have been educated and be shown tangible benefits from the forests as a resource if they are conservation and re-afforestation."

Ms Mary Mombembe, a mother of two at Bukhaywa Primary School is all praise for development projects. "We don't have here and if the forest can be our factory, we be very happy." She hopes KWS activities will continue. Her aspirations are by local inhabitants. - AN IRIS Feature



Tropical rain forest threatened by timber merchants.

Cooker for 'light-pocket' women

"Before I started using the fireless cooker a year ago, I had to buy cooking gas every month. Now I buy it after three months," says Beatrice Ichenhi a trainer in a recent seminar organised to equip women with skills in making the fireless cooker, an innovative approach to cooking and keeping food warm.

With an up to 50 per cent potential saving on energy when put to the right use and in combination with other energy saving devices, the fireless cooker is undoubtedly kinder to the purse in this day when fuel is a costly commodity. It is a boon in terms of time management and home safety and a positive step in the direction of energy conservation and environmental protection.

A covered pot of food that has been brought to the boil and left to simmer for some time,

Fireless cooker is an innovative approach to cooking which is giving the Kenyan women reason to smile. Friendly to the environment, mindful of safety in the kitchen, complementary to time management, the multiple role player, the easily affordable cooker is a boon to womenfolk, a correspondent says so.

depending on the type of food, is quickly removed from the fire and put into the fireless cooker covered with the cooker's lid where it continues cooking using the retained heat.

Extremely useful for foods that take time to cook such as dry beans, maize, meat and tripe (matumbo), the insulated basket numerous benefits.

The fireless cooker has even been referred to as the woman's "maid" (house-help) because the working mother can now go to work and leave the meal cooking. At mealtime, the children can serve themselves without the risk of fire related accidents.

The woman can also leave her food cooking and go to the shop or run other errands with no danger of fire outbreaks, so common in our sprawling urban slums, where majority of the low-income earners live.

The fireless cooker also saves many a woman the time and energy spent relighting a fire to heat food for a spouse who has come in late, because it also works as a food warmer.

"It has brought more friendliness in the home because of reduced complaints of late meals and the better organisation which helps the woman become more relaxed," notes the co-ordinator, a one time project manager of the German Technical Co-operation (GTZ) special project funded by the German government.

And the list of pluses goes on. According to Ellen Etimesi, a trainer for the last two years, the fireless cooker can save time spent heating bathing water in the morning by doing so the previous evening as it keeps hot for up to 10 hours.

It can also be used to provide a hot meal for the office worker, school teacher or during a long journey. "No one would know until you remove the food to eat," adds Etimesi.

Addressing participants during the official closing of the WIDEN seminar, World Bank's Operations Officer in Nairobi, Dr Christine Cornelius, noted that the project would be "beneficial to arid and semi-arid lands where resources are scarce."

The Drought Recovery Project officer who has been working with pastoral communities in Northern Kenya, said the project has particular

relevance in pastoral areas where firewood for fuel is scarce and looking for it, a time consuming activity for women.

The fireless cooker can be made using any available basket. One may be guided by the size of one's cooking pot and the situation it is to cater for. Insulating material, polythene paper and cotton material are the other basic requirements.

Suitable also for catering for large gatherings - like weddings, funds raising activities and the smaller "merry-go-rounds," - women's monthly group meetings popular in Kenya, the fireless cooker can be used with metal sauce pans as well as clay cooking pots. However, one would need to allow the clay pot which gets red-hot on the fire to cool a little lest it burn the pot.

To cook beans or "githeri" (maize and beans meal) soak the beans for at least eight hours or overnight, cover the cooking pot and bring the food to the boil. Allow it to simmer for half an hour and then quickly transfer the pot from the fire to the fireless cooker. Cover the cooker with its lid, and leave to continue cooking. After three hours it should be ready.

For rice, the guideline is to let it simmer for two minutes and then continue cooking in the fireless cooker for half an hour.

Meat stews need 10 to 20 minutes to simmer, and one-and-a-half hours in the fireless cooker while bananas, potatoes and cassava take about 10 minutes to simmer, and half an hour in the cooker.

Sukuma wili (kale) will cook an ordinary fire for five minutes and a further 20 minutes in the fireless cooker while pre-soaked green grams need 15 minutes and one-and-a-half hours to simmer and stay in the cooker respectively.

Kenya a country where organised sin thrives

By Ndriangu Wachiri

I'm forced to comment on the recent forced evictions at Mukuru Kwa Njenga slums of Nairobi. More than 600 families were left homeless by a gang of a well-organised uniformed Kenyans led by none other than provincial administrator Francis Lekolol.

This happened in a country that boasts of Christian leaders who are supposed to uphold the moral and social ethics of Jesus Christ.

The good news of Jesus Christ must address the bondage of sin, poverty, forced evictions, economic injustice, freedom from structural evil. Jesus defined his ministry as liberation of those in bondage.

This is the same Christ who must do the same to those down trodden Kenyans forced to be homeless. Good news must be backed by the integrity of our lives. We cannot claim Christ's love if our hearts cannot respond to those who are hungry, those who are crying because of loss of property at the hands of other Kenyans in this so-called peace loving country.

First and foremost we have to be saved from our own greed. Behind every problem there is a whole fundamental issue of spiritual reality.

There must be something that motivates us to act the way we do. To the philosopher this could be the conscience. To the economist there is the "invisible hand" which guarantees the good of each and everybody who pursues his own self-interest.

To us Christians, conscience has to do with God. The "invisible hand" is none other than God's hand. So if this is the guiding factor in our every action and especially those of us who confess Christ as their personal saviour, then we have to search our conscience when evictions such as witnessed at Mukuru take place under our noses. When we examine the political, social and economic realities we are not just dealing with facts and figures but with principles and power.

We have to harmonise Romans 12 and Ephesians 6 and we cannot be indifferent as Jesus addressed these issues during his day.

Evil can incarnate itself in any of: political, economic or social structures as organised sin. There is force/power behind every structure and behind every just or evil structure there is a power or a principality with good or evil.

Paul says that we must wage war against these principalities and powers. We have to attack evil from its root and at every level, personal, social, structural, institutional; our parameter of attack is 360 degrees, no less.

The whole notion of continuing Christianity or religion to the people or in the church is naive and pathetic. That is why the so-called independent religious groups could even be independent from God rather than depending on Him. They will seize every opportunity to go to their homes and say, "All the nice things become about sin and sinners when there is no peace."

They should repent and ask

Christ to give them eyes so that they can see their nakedness.

When we talk against land grabbing and forced evictions we must speak with authority because behind them there is whole demonic power of greed.

The forced eviction at Mukuru stopped only after a High Court judge intervened. May God bless him as that was justice done.

Justice should not be a privilege for a few well-to-do Kenyans. It should bring equitable and harmonious relationship among all Kenyans. When justice was not seen to be done among God's people of Israel, God sent prophets who blatantly denounced it.

Land grabbing

Amos put it like this: "they sell the righteous for silver, and the needy for a pair of shoes" (Amos 2:6). Bribery was the order of the day and just judges who spoke the truth were despised (Amos 5:10,12).



Homeless and destitute... man's inhumanity to man.

We see even higher levels of injustice in Kenya today than during those days of prophet Amos. The high level of official corruption, bribery, land grabbing, unworthy labour returns and abused labour laws by Asians, gurus of the Kenyan business community.

These evils should be attacked for God is our vindicator. By doing this we are rendering our services to our creator, who has called us to be like his son Jesus Christ. Fear is sin, just like adultery or murder.

God says he executes justice for the fatherless and the widows, and loves the sojourners giving food and clothing. I believe this should be the cause with the police force.

Jeremiah, the weeping prophet, said: "You have eyes and heart only for your dishonest gain, for shedding innocent blood and for practicing oppression and violence" (Jeremiah 22:17).

The kind of violence often unleashed on Nairobi street hawkers is appalling. When forced to move these Kenyans and on women, some with their babies

on their backs, it is total madness. Within a minute, carrots, tomatoes, cabbages and other wares are scattered all over.

You cannot help meditating on the code that protects personal property and whether it includes tomatoes worth less than Sh 100 or it applies only to those properties worth millions of shillings.

Imagine this scene. One morning a mother of five left her home in Korocho to sell her wares near the Bus Station. As usual the city askaris started chasing away the hawkers.

The mother ran, not knowing that this would be her last run. She was knocked down by a fast moving matatu and died. Her body was taken to the City Mortuary.

As the case with many other hawkers, she had no identification card. The children waited for her that night with no avail. The second day, the first born decided to scavenge for the rest of her brothers and sisters.

The neighbours noticed the absence of the mother a week

later. They contacted relatives who looked for this woman everywhere, finally locating her body at the City Mortuary.

Five more Kenyans have since joined the streets as street children, orphaned in the name of forcing hawkers out of the street. True, streets should be clean, but this has to be done decently and with human dignity. No wonder Jeremiah said "You are shedding innocent blood and practicing oppression and violence."

This calls for self-examination and meditation upon some of these happenings in our society. We shall not escape because there is the sin of omission and sin of commission. This is important not only to those in authority, but also to those who take orders such as an individual administrator, police officer, and individual city bulldozer driver.

When it is demanded that you say no, say it and stick to it. For God is your vindicator and our judge. That is the broadest that we must take as individuals to obey God rather than man.

Insights

Clergyman examines church shortcomings

Most, if not all, African independent or indigenous churches have incorporated indigenous cultural traditions into their worship and other socio-religious ceremonies. On the other hand, the new charismatic Christian movements have lived but equally long worship services. But their Bible readings and sermons are shorter.

The sermons are, however, particularly more powerfully eloquent in praising the Lord than relating the Gospel to the non spiritual day-to-day problems of the followers.

"Nevertheless, some of what appear to be pluses may be enough to lure a number of baptised Christians within the historical churches to the new groups," admits the Rt Rev Dr Paul Kofi Fynn, president of the Lutheran Church in Ghana.

But if the mainline churches were to carry out a genuine and critical self-analysis they would stem "this undesirable flow," he contends. He adds: "Mainline churches have an edge over all others."

Dr Fynn appreciates the new effort of "other churches" to win more souls for Jesus. This would go a long way in establishing "God's Kingdom on earth where peace, caring love, unity, reconciliation, and dignity for all human beings is the norm rather than the exception."

His concern, however, is that their gospel is based purely on biblical truth which they take as given. The knowledge and changed historical, social and cultural circumstances of later-day generations is assumed to be irrelevant.

The exclusive concern of the charismatic groups in particular is spiritual salvation, sometimes making doctrines out of single verses.

For the social, political and economic situation of the human being, this has inevitably been predetermined by God and only Jesus can change it, perhaps miraculously. Not surprisingly, dictatorial regimes and authoritarian local administration officials find the

A lot of "positive attractions" that are said to lure youth and other faithful from mainline, traditional or historical churches to new charismatic religious groups on the one hand and to independent or indigenous churches

on the other, continue to be debated. The Rev Dr Paul Kofi Fynn, president of the Lutheran Church in Ghana discusses some shortcomings of both the new groups and historical churches with Robert N. Kizito.

new groups and some indigenous churches a relief to deal with.

Hence in Kenya for instance, the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCCK) finally split into two in 1995, with a breakaway group forming the Regional Fellowship of Churches of Kenya (RFCK).

The RFCK is more pentecostal, evangelistic or charismatic in membership and orientation. It seeks, it would appear, to distance itself from the more worldly social, political and economic concerns that affect Christians and non Christians alike.

Dominated by mainline churches, the NCCCK on the other hand continues not only to be concerned with evangelization and the spiritual needs of the people, but also with the social economic and political issues of the day as they affect the populace. "Spiritualization and 'engagement in society' is the full mission of the church," NCCCK argues.

Fundamental Issues

In a recent move, the RFCK has vowed to disrupt NCCCK peace and reconciliation seminars. Initiated in areas worst hit by tribal clashes at the height of the clamour for multipartyism in the early 1990s, President Moi has termed the seminars as "subversive activities."

On spiritual matters, however, charges Dr Fynn, mainline churches have failed to explain in a clear penetrating and easily discernible language of fashion some fundamental religious doctrines and issues. These include such matters as trinity, the Holy Spirit and others.

Often these have been explained away simply as mysteries because "lucky are those who believe without seeing." The insistence on the "mystery" of speaking in tongues and on miracles on the part of charismatics has been equally harmful.

But today, people are more educated and learned in modern disciplines that have made them more inquisitive, says Dr Fynn. They will therefore go to groups that either put less emphasis on such fundamental issues or provide answers to these mysteries however superficial.

One of the major faults of mainline churches is elitism of church leaders and institutions. This contradicts the brotherhood prescribed in the scriptures. There are now "inner circles" and at the same time "strangers" within congregations instead of fellowship, says Dr Fynn.

Some elites have reserved seats on the pews irrespective of their apparent conduct. When elites want to baptize their children or are in need of funeral services, no "embarrassing questions" are asked, he adds. "These are reserved for the more lowly."

In the independent churches as well as charismatic movements, real brotherhood flourishes both in times of happiness and sadness.

When death occurs, unemployment hits or marriage takes place in a family, it becomes a collective concern of the entire group that worships together. This solidarity is reminiscent of the early church, and it is a major attraction given today's social economic hardships.

Dr Fynn recommends a minimal interest (as in his church) or completely interest-free revolving fund to help



Dr Fynn lays hands on the faithful at St Paul's Lutheran church in Accra.

Christians start small enterprises as one way of fighting unemployment, dependency and alleviating poverty.

A related phenomenon is the domineering relationship between the church and clergy, and their followers. The relationship which, however, is found in both groups is manifest in excessive belief in the established institution of the church or its pastors than in God and the Holy Spirit.

While a stand on fundamental issues such as Christian doctrines and worship must be firmly elucidated, Dr Fynn argues, there is a need for flexibility, tolerance of constructive criticism and willingness to learn new things and experiences.

Quoting the Bible, Dr Fynn also urges mainline churches to make their services not only more lively but also more participatory because "priesthood is for all believers." The clergy may be trained but they do not have the monopoly of gifts of the Holy Spirit, he declares.

Something also needs to be done about the length of services and sermons. The same goes for "the three readings which sometimes are not even readily connected," making theological sense only to the priest but confusing to worshippers.

Born to parents who could neither read nor write, Dr Fynn knows only his middle name, "Kofi." Kofi in his native language means Friday, after which he was named.

After receiving his secular education in Ghana, he stayed with a Lutheran missionary from the United States. It was through this experience that he made the decision to attend seminaries in Obot Edim in Nigeria and in Makumira, Tanzania in the late 1960s. He later did a certificate course in journalism at the Africa Literature Centre at Kitwe in Zambia.

He also studied in the United States in the greater Chicago area, earning a B.A. degree from Wheaton College and an M.A. degree in journalism from Northwestern University. Following graduation he worked for two years as a journalist for the *Chicago Tribune*.

After returning to Ghana, he became pastor of St Paul's Lutheran Church in Accra, which he continues to serve without salary as a "worker-priest." He received an honorary doctor of divinity degree in 1995.

As president of the Lutheran Church in Ghana since 1978, the number of Lutherans in Ghana increased from 4,000 to 20,000 in five years. AF

Women's Concerns

Bubbly Wangeci a cut above all

Jane Wangeci Amiri will be only 25 on the 20th of this month. She completed her university course last year, but she is set to prove that apart from her reserve of energy, she is a woman of great ability.

While at the University of Nairobi, Wangeci was the chairperson of the Women's Students Welfare Association (WSWA) for two successful terms. Her programme was BA in social work and issues on how young women could help in the development of society featured prominently at the WSWA.

Today, Wangeci is the co-ordinator of the newly-launched Young Women in Leadership Programme whose major objective is to assist young women interested in developing skills, gaining perspectives and who aspire to leadership positions.

"We would like young women in this country to be at the centre of issues and events, not on the fringes because we believe they have a duty and a natural call to put things right in society and have a greater stake in the future of Kenya and the continent at large," she told me at the Young Women's Christian Association, Nairobi.

Wangeci says her organisation seeks parity and access to education between girls and boys at nursery, primary, secondary, tertiary and university levels and encourages women leaders to act as mentors and role models to actively help young women.

"At the core of all matters," she says, "we would like to stop the marginalisation of women who are 52 per cent of our population and we intend to do this through education and awareness raising, health

programmes, working for equal power relationships between women and men at the household and other levels of society."

The WSWA also aims at demystifying so-called women's weaknesses, hence promoting of their equal access to economic opportunities and doing away with cultural practices which are detrimental to women's health. These include genital mutilation.

By Seth Musisi

Street children

"Mark you, we are working towards the repeal of laws in this country which act as a deterrent to women's progress and to ensure that positive laws are effectively enforced, particularly with regards to violence against women," she said.

Wangeci is a member of the Kenya Red Cross to which she got attached while still at college. In fact, her interests in the Kenya Red Cross deepened when she was commissioned to carry out a "needs assessment survey" when the organization wanted to start some projects in the Mukuru Kayaba slums in Nairobi's Industrial Area for street children and those from poor families.

She is a member of Environmental Conservation Alliance which inspires the young people in tree planting and to discuss environmental issues. And last year she was elected co-ordinator of yet another group called Today for Tomorrow Youth Group.

"In this group which has about 100 people in the 15-28 age group, we talk and attempt to come up with solutions to such issues as cleaning up exercises, education in such areas as HIV/AIDS awareness, drug abuse,

cultural and traditional songs and plays, drama dances," she says.

Recently Wangeci was in the organising committee of a conference held at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre where a special event called Young Women and HIV/AIDS was formed. The one-day event was attended by young people from Eastern and Southern African countries.

Probably the most memorable thing Wangeci remembers is what she refers to as the "Lady's Day" which she organised last year while still at the university and which brought together all women students for a meeting with the vice-chancellor and other senior members of the university.

Says Wangeci: "It was such a magnificent event, for it was the first time the women students were able to talk to the V-C, and other senior staff in an informal setting. In fact, the hall was filled to capacity."

As a social worker and young women's leader, Wangeci has had also the opportunity of travelling to Uganda, Tanzania and South Africa.

She has also been to Germany where early this year she undertook a four-month diploma in management course on a Konrad Adenauer Stiftung scholarship.

Wangeci has yet to decide on marriage for she plans to go back to the university for further education. But she respects the marriage institution as it was constituted by God Himself and because it is the foundation of society.

The dynamic young woman concedes that efforts for women empowerment are beginning to have a positive impact, but a lot has to be done, especially in the



Ms Jane Wangeci Amiri explains a point to Mrs Tabitha Seil, a Democratic Party of Kenya activist, during the launching of Young Women in Leadership Programme in a Nairobi hotel.

field of education.

"We shall start feeling the impact for women's empowerment once we find that female circumcision has been eliminated from among some tribes in this country. I must commend the Maendeleo ya Wanawake Organisation for being torch-bearers in this area," she told Target.

She is of the view that for faster improvement in women's status, women should come up with a fund or a foundation to

sponsor the needy women for formal education, especially those in the rural areas, and also to develop careers suited for women's advancement.

"But we need to get those women out there in rural areas adequately informed about what is happening in the outside world so that they too may have access to opportunities suited for them," she says.

As an example, she argues that not many women, especially in rural areas, are aware of Kenya

Women Finance Trust which could loan them money to start business without security or that they could be represented free of charge in courts by the Federation for Women Lawyers (FIDA) Kenya Chapter.

The third in a family of three girls and a boy, Wangeci was born on 20 October 1971. She received her early education at St Lwanga Primary School, Mombasa, Kiungu Primary School and Ngandu Girls in Nyeri.

Women theologians call for justice in church structures



Here they are: Dr Odoyo displays his two books launched at the Circle meeting in August.

"Even as we do theology, we should be careful not to be too critical of our religion (Christianity) because we will find ourselves with nothing to fall back on for spiritual comfort."

"Theology is 'God-talk' (the study of religious and religious beliefs) and therefore you can't put parameters to the nature of theology. The fear of being critical is grounded in the fact that the 'God-talk' is necessary and must go on. We are not out to tell people what is to be believed - that is done in the cathedral!"

So went the debate between a Kenyan participant and the pioneer of the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians (CCAWT), Dr Mercy Amba Oduyoye, during the biennial Institute of African Women in Religion and Culture recently held in Nairobi.

The former argument is typical of the fact that in the African context, it would be both misleading and inadequate to discuss theology without dealing with the question of spirituality. For one, to the African, religion is not a theory, it is a way of living; meant to help people with their everyday life.

For about two decades now, theologians and committed lay persons have shared the passion for an "African Christianity." Experiments are indeed taking place in theology through the likes of Dr Odoyo's brainchild, the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians - something that could be termed as a genuine challenge to the churches in Africa.

Formed in 1989 in Accra, the Circle of

African women theologians say new roles for women in the church do not mean that churches will become more virtuous; only the structures will become more just and adequate to the message of the church, Florence Bamanyaki reports.

Concerned African Women Theologians is faced with the task of promoting women's theological education in Africa - "feminist theology". The organization aims to encourage African women's theological authorship and reflection on the influence of religion and culture on the lives of women.

The uniqueness about this body is that one not only has to be a woman to fit in but must also submit a paper on African theology before she can be considered for membership.

According to Dr Oduyoye, women's spirituality is qualitatively different from men's in that the former's experience of socio-economic realities differs from the latter's. Similarly, women's dependence on religious beliefs, practices and rituals is more intensely demonstrated.

A Ghanaian, Dr Oduyoye argues that when women read the Bible, they often hear what is unheard by men. Therefore, women's theology originates from a different depth. She justifies feminist theology with the argument that the reception of liturgy and women's reaction to it is shaped by social expectations and their experience of life.

Is it about gender sensitive language in liturgy? Because when the Rev Martha Nguni, the Christian Education Secretary for the (Anglican) Church of the Province of Kenya (CPK) was called upon to offer a prayer for the opening ceremony of the pan-African conference, she began thus: "Our Mother, Mother of Hagai, Sarah and Rebecca. This is indeed promoting the inclusion of specifically women's concerns in the theory and practice of evangelism."

Given that the theme of the conference was Transforming Power, Women in the House of God, one would be quick to imagine that the governing discussion would be women in dialogue involvement in church leadership and decision making. But a diversity of issues that range from women's development were tackled - capacity building, conflict and crisis resolution and politics.

The merging of Christianity and politics caused a stir among the women theologians as many of them were of the opinion that the two cannot mix. "Politics is a dirty game," they said.

But Mrs Tabitha Seil, a renowned Kenyan woman politician and Christian was most emphatic that appearing on the rostrum to give a political address does not "abstract your Christian faith. She told the African women theologians that they can still render support to politicians by voting and encouraging them in the Christian faith."

—APS Features

The 'Pill After' option in family planning

Yes! Oral contraceptives are used by women the world over to prevent unwanted pregnancies and in most cases these pills are taken on regular basis, but did you know that certain pills can also be used after unprotected sex to stop pregnancy?

The latest issue of *Network*, a quarterly health bulletin by the United States-based Family Health International (FHI), says it only takes a higher dosage of multiple pills to bring about "emergency contraception." This is said to be effective if two to four pills are taken within the first 48 to 72 hours after unprotected sex takes place, then repeated after 12 hours to completely block fertilization.

However, if the pills are used after exposure, they are only 75 per cent effective in preventing pregnancy. The user also experiences unpleasant side effects like nausea, headaches and vomiting. But doctors say the hormones in oral contraceptives mimic the

symptoms of pregnancy, thus the side effects are no cause for alarm. In addition to the pill, says *Network*, "emergency contraception" can be achieved by inserting copper intra-uterine devices (IUDs) within five days of intercourse.

More so, anti-progestins, such as mifepristone or RU 486, can be taken within 72 hours after sex and used to prevent pregnancy. Although not effective as a regular method, this "emergency" contraception can prevent unwanted pregnancy among women who have been sexually assaulted, or those women who have experienced contraceptive failure.

The corporate director of FHI, Dr Roberto Rivera, says, "emergency contraception" should be "emphasised as an option in family planning because it has an important role as a back up method" to the condom, regular pill use and IUDs. Nations like Brazil, Vietnam and Latin America have already adopted emergency contraception. Women are using a portion of pills from a monthly packet of Combined Oral Contraceptives (COCs).

User Information

In Africa, however, Zaire is the first country that has requested the first shipment from Berlin-based Schering.

A consortium on emergency contraception, a group of seven (yet unnamed) organisations, plan to work with industry to

produce an inexpensive emergency contraceptive product. It will help introduce the product into 15 developing countries over the next five years. The first model introduction will begin in Kenya soon, according to the FHI publication.

A sister-in-charge at the Family Planning Association of Kenya (FPK) said some Kenyan women had adapted emergency contraception but that it was not reliable as most of them eventually became pregnant. She confirmed that the pills used are the ones advocated for regular use. About the model introduction of the emergency pills from FHI, she told APS she had not received information to that effect.

With all these developments, a cross-section of African women still fear using the pill because of related side effects like nausea and vomiting. A good number of women would rather have their partners use the condom.

Some women are sceptical of

the pill saying it may cause them to become barren or disrupt their reproductive system but Ugandan surgeon Dr Winnie Kabuleta dismisses such fears explaining that if the pill is taken irregularly, then implantation can take place.

Joy, a mother of two teenage girls, said the introduction of "emergency contraception" as you put it will only help to increase the rate of sexual immorality among adolescents given that sex is no longer a myth to them.

Talking about sex is considered threatening. Sex education even as a subject in schools arouses controversial debates. Neither is changing sexual practices and making it safe seen as a comfortable subject for discussion. But which is the "lesser evil" given the demystification of sex through pornography and the unpleasant fact that one can hardly move without being confronted with sexual imagery?

The Church is categorically clear about its attitude towards

contraception and so it would not hear of protected or unprotected sex between unmarried people. Even for the married, contraception is going against God's plan of "subduing the earth" by multiplying.

Early this year, the head of the Catholic Church in Kenya, Maurice Cardinal Ogunja joined his then Muslim counterpart Sheikh Ali Shie in Nairobi to set ablaze, sex education literature and condoms, a sign that according to the Catholics and Muslims, there are no two ways about contraception.

The Director of Uganda's Crisis Pregnancy and Counselling Centre (CPC), Mrs Vivian Kiyi is pessimistic about the effectiveness of contraceptives.

But Dr Florence Miremba, a gynaecologist at Kampala's Mulago hospital, says that oral contraceptives are more than 95 per cent effective if used correctly.

—APS Features

Politics Made Easy

What happens on polling day

What happens on the polling day? Armed with your voting and identity cards, you proceed to the polling station as early as possible. There you meet a person known as the presiding officer. He is one of the people appointed by the Electoral Commission to oversee the election process.

- The presiding officer will:
- ask for your voter and identity cards,
 - confirm that they are in order and present you with a stamped and unused ballot paper with the official mark,
 - check for your name in the voters' register then call out your name and number,
 - Proceed to enter your number on the counterfoils of the three ballot papers; one for presidential, one for parliamentary and the third for civic candidate,
 - place a mark against your electoral number in the copy register to show that you have been issued with ballot papers,
 - mark your card to show the ballot papers have been delivered to him.

It is important to make sure you have confirmed that the ballot papers are stamped with the official mark to avoid their being rejected and hence declared spoilt. At the same time, your thumb will be marked with a special ink which lasts throughout the election period. This is to ensure that you do not vote more than once.

Armed with the ballot papers, you will then proceed to a booth or secret compartment where you will be alone. There you will:

1. Put an 'X' mark against the name of the candidate and his/her party. It must be placed inside the box making sure that it does not extend beyond that box and
2. Fold up the marked ballot papers to conceal your vote.

The ballot boxes for three candidates will be located in different rooms. You will walk to the three rooms, making sure that you cast the right ballot paper in the right box.

The election agent of your party will be present in the three rooms. In case of any difficulty, consult him for help.

In case of physical disability or illiteracy of a voter, the presiding officer will mark the ballot papers on behalf of the voter in the presence of one witness for each candidate. After casting your vote you must leave the polling station.

Notes: If a ballot paper gets spoilt in the process of marking it, you can return it to the presiding officer for replacement.

A voter should mark the paper by placing the mark 'X' opposite the name of the candidate he/she wishes to elect, and should not place the mark opposite more than one candidate.

He/she should make no other mark whatsoever on the paper and then fold the paper through the centre from left to right to conceal the vote.

Remember that it is an offence to knowingly fail to place the ballot paper issued to you into a ballot box or boxes before leaving where the box is located. You could be fined up to Sh 50,000 for doing so.

You should not intimidate or interfere with the voters by way of preventing their free movement into and out of the polling station.

If you have complaints, such as being denied free access into the polling station or ballot papers being out of order, you should direct them to the presiding officer.

Elections can be considered free and fair when the following conditions are met:

When voters decide on their favourite

candidates and vote for them without fear and in a secret ballot.

- When all eligible voters are registered in a non-discriminatory manner

- When the elections are administered by impartial officers and the procedures are clear and can be checked by all parties agents and accredited election observers.

- When all political parties are free to organise campaign meetings and express their opinions.

- When every party has equal access to the media during the election campaign period

- When the security of all candidates from all parties is ensured.

- When electoral institutions provide clear channels for dealing with any problems and complaints that may arise.

When elections are not free and fair, they are characterised by rigging. Rigging can be described as using illegal and unfair methods to win. Some people associate rigging with what happens on election day but that is not the case.

and strategies of the opposition. This makes it difficult for the opposition to take over power.

7. Giving a short period for registration of voters and campaign period. The government in power may do that to catch the electorate and the opposition unprepared so that votes do not swing to other parties.

The control of such organs as the police, provincial administration, judiciary and electronic media by the executive are likely to lead to rigging.

"Your loyalty is to me. It is not to the nation. That loyalty must be total and direct."

The control of such organs as the police, provincial administration, judiciary and electronic media by the executive are likely to lead to rigging.

Rigging during campaign and on election day:

Some of the rigging methods cited above are also used during the campaign period and on polling day. There are others, however, that are more common

during the campaigns and on election day.

Bribery: Bribery in cash and in kind has been accepted by voters and candidates as a normal practice during elections. However, it does not only constitute an election offence to give bribes but it also violates the principal of fairness.

If someone is willing to bribe you, it means he is buying leadership and is not fit for that position.

Violence: There have been instances of voters in an area where a party is not popular being intimidated with violence so that they can either stay from the polling stations or change their political choice. In some instances, even the police have participated in such intimidation.

Denial of access to hold meetings: The law on licensing meetings in itself is oppressive. When it is used deliberately to curtail candidates the only opportunity of selling their ideas to voters, it limits their chances of making an independent choice between the various candidates and the policies they are offering.

Intimidating candidates: There have been instances where candidates have been assaulted and threatened by government agents. Such actions instil fear not only in the candidates but also in the voters. The candidates are not able to reach the voters because of such fear and the voters in turn may fear reprisals if they support such a candidate.

What can you do to stop rigging? As a voter and as a citizen you have the duty and responsibility to make elections free and fair. You have the power to stop rigging by

Refusing to be bribed. By accepting a bribe, you are selling your vote. Selling a vote is like selling your birth right to vote freely. By refusing to take a bribe, you help to fight corruption in the country. Leaders who bribe do not deserve votes.

Refusing to participate in violence. Elections are one way of resolving conflicts. Violence during campaigns and on the voting day disrupts this peace making process. Violence denies some voters their democratic right to make a choice. Those who engage in it help to derail the democratic process.

Record any irregularities and problems initiated by anybody irrespective of party or candidate during campaigns and on election day. Report the incidents to the relevant authority such as the presiding officer and be ready and willing to give evidence in court in case of a petition.

Participate as a volunteer in organisations formed to monitor elections. Participate in voter education

instances, they ignore qualities of leadership and instead choose tribes.

Others think that only members of their tribes are fit to lead. Some politicians campaign on tribal tickets. They appeal to people of their tribe to support them, allegedly to protect their interests. Such politicians who appeal to tribe as a quality of leadership should not be elected.

It should not be because it is a party of your clan. Our clan is the majority in this ward and so we have enough votes to elect our own clansman as councillor. So let us form our own party. Our clan has suffered enough and it is time we also produced a leader.

When people think of themselves as a clan other than members of a nation, they weaken the democratic process and national unity. They also encourage nepotism.

It should not be because it is a party of your religion. There is nothing essentially wrong with a political party with specialised interests like religion so long as it can present its policies to the voters country wide. However religion alone should not be the only quality for one to join it.

And it should not be because it is headed by a person of your sex. Although it is proper for instance to support a party headed by a woman or a minority group so as to promote gender equality and minority rights, sex alone like religion, should not be the sole factor in determining your choice.

What then, are the qualities of a good political party?

i) It must have clear policies on issues affecting the nation.

ii) If it is an old party, it must have a good proven record.

iii) It should embrace the interests of all and avoid sectarianism.

iv) A good political party must have effective structures at all levels to enable it to undertake such activities as mobilisation of members, voter education and party elections.

In the 1992 multi-party general elections, there was a campaign in some areas to convince voters to conduct what was called three-piece suit voting. The three-piece suit campaign urged voters to vote for their party's candidate as councillor, Member of Parliament and presidential elections level. As a result in some areas, one party produced councillors and MPs from one party.

Since then, the question has been asked: Should you choose the party of the candidate? We have already seen that there are good and bad political parties. One assumes that good political party will support an equally acceptable candidate. One also assumes that a good candidate will associate with a good party.

The experience of the last election however seems to contradict this view. This is because some of the candidates sponsored by some of the parties that were considered good turned out to be poor leaders, leading to the frustration that voters have experienced.

Even when the voters knew that particular candidates was a poor leader, they still voted him or her in that because of belonging to the right party.

In this case voters acquire a mentality. The mob does not think in its acts. It is irrational and emotional. Its actions are always regrettable. You should therefore try to make independent decisions depending on what is good for them and not be intimidated to vote as a bloc.

Since you have a choice between various parties you either vote in power or an opposition party.

passed to make Kenya a single party state, thus banning the registration of other parties except Kanu. The law was repealed in 1991, making Kenya multi-party state once again.

Any Kenyan citizen political party of his or her choice. You don't have to be a member of a political party to vote. However, it is advisable to be a member of a political party.

If you choose to join a political party, it should not be because it is a party of your tribe or headed by your tribesman. Some people believe that charity begins at home so they vote for people who come from their tribes. In many

to help those who may need it. You can do it at home, in the small Christian communities, youth groups etc. Voter education is normally free and the voter should take advantage of it.

Some people think that multi-party politics or pluralism is a new idea in Kenya or a very strange concept. It simply means a system in which several parties contest for power.

They don't contest for power for the sake of it. They have to have national interests at heart and should not be driven by personal or ethnic interests. Common good should motivate them all the time. However, the system of multi parties does not provide a cure for all social, political and economic ills.

For the record, when Kenya became independent in 1963, it had a multi-party political system. The two main parties were Kanu and the Kenya African Democratic Union (Kadu). Kadu dissolved itself in 1964. The next opposition party, the Kenya People's Union, was started in 1966 but it was banned in 1969. In 1982, a law was

passed to make Kenya a single party state, thus banning the registration of other parties except Kanu. The law was repealed in 1991, making Kenya multi-party state once again.

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Music culture media

Gospel singer Atieno talks of demonic attacks

By Fredrick Nzwill

Mary Atieno is a household name in gospel music circles. Although she is known for her moving gospel titles, she is one in many. She is a wife, a teacher by profession, a church minister and above all she is blind.

However, she does not strike anyone as blind on first encounter. She is neat, well-groomed hair and wears dark brown goggles.

Born in Karungu in Nyatike, Migori district in 1961, Mary joined Oda School for the Blind for both nursery and primary education. She joined Thika School for the Blind for her secondary education before her admission at Kenyatta University for a Bachelor of Education degree, specialising in CRE and Literature.

Mary says that gospel singing for her was an accident. "All my school life I suffered from demonic attacks. I could not sleep as something kept blocking my throat and gave me heart attacks. I knew nothing about prayer," she says.

The demon used to appear to her as a hen. Before it appeared, she would first get Snowflake perfume scent then the fowl would fly about the room. It would follow her even in the toilet.

"I was then a Catholic and whenever I said a prayer, the demon would pray together with me. By then I used to pray in my mother's language. I changed my style and prayed in English because I thought demons did not know English but the demon still prayed with me," confesses Mary.

It was after she got saved in 1979 that the demonic attacks stopped. Unfortunately, she fell into the hands of a cultic group masquerading as a truthful gospel ministry.

Her first musical performance was *How Sweet is the Name of Jesus* which she performed with International Fellowship Choir in early 80s. She produced *Siku ya shangwe na Kilio* with the same choir.

She went solo in 1992 and her first musical cassette was *Hakuna Mungu Mwingine* which she produced with the help of Alex Ominde. This is the man she married last April and with whom she is working on a new gospel cassette titled *Ushikisi*. The cassette has a slow beat unlike the others.

"It came to me while I was asleep and the Lord dictated that I use a slow beat," says Mary. Other titles in the cassette include *Yesu ni Jawabu*, *Stawachi Kufuata*, *Shikata*, *Mwokozi*, *Kama Yesu unafika* and *Ushikisi*.

They will compare media issues among the Iranian community in London and the Pakistani community in Bradford and will study their involvement in

By Fredrick Nzwill

Since she got to know Alex Ominde, Mary's performances have greatly improved. However, she says that her greatest problem is piracy.

"Adam na Iva went as far as Dubai and sold without our label while *Hakuna Mungu Mwingine Kama Wewe* is common in Zaire and Tanzania," says Mary.

"We have not taken our music that far. Worse still is that our cassettes in these areas are low priced," she says acknowledging their inability to control the market since by then they were

not producers. "We now produce our music through the assistance of Reuben Kigano, a producer and an instrumentalist within gospel circles," the singer says.

In addition to singing, Mary maintains a personal philosophy of consistency in whatever she does. "I hate to see gospel singers jumping from church to church. This happens since most of them are motivated by money but not the spirit," laments Mary and asks: "Why free-lance in the world of gospel?"

As for her future plans, Mary intends to become a full time gospel minister, when 'the call of the Lord' comes.



Singer Mary Atieno... would like to become a full-time church minister.

Development flourishes where culture is appreciated

By H.Kym'scorp wa Wanjiru

The role of culture in defining the advancement or deterioration of a people cannot be overemphasised as a country braces for industrial and technological take-off and the subsequent economic re-adjustment.

Development can only flourish where it is rooted in the culture and tradition of a country since it is an all-encompassing process linked to each society's

own values and calling for active participation of individuals and groups who are both its authors and beneficiaries.

Development growth for its own sake in the absence of decent living conditions and basic amenities for the general population is hollow. There is need for African governments to explore the economic potential of cultural industries based on creativity in traditional and modern cultural endeavours.

The need for a better understanding of our culture

arises from the definition of culture is who we are and how we are becoming. When we talk about culture, we include the visions, dreams and aspirations of humanity.

Culture, like defined in *The Power of the Word: Culture Censorship and Voice*, "is the food we put on the table, the way we cook it, the utensils in which we eat it, the relationship between the people who sit at the table and the people who cook and serve, what is done with the left overs, what is discussed during

the meal, what music, dancing, poetry or theatre that accompany it and the social and spiritual values of those present."

It is therefore part and parcel of a people. The late Okot p Bitek defines it as a "philosophy of a people that is lived and celebrated."

This to the African governments is important because in spite of the bashing the African culture has taken from the West, it still manifests itself in a number of other ways evident in the formal institutions

inherited from the colonial past that lack cultural roots.

Interpreting our realities according to our environment and heritage arises from the fact that different cultures perceive the world differently and these different perceptions, which are almost always based on objective data and situations such as natural phenomena or the natural environment give rise to different interpretations in different cultural contexts.

The various techniques, developed and applied by peoples in the past to solve practical problems with similar results in areas like navigation, agriculture, medicine, shelter and other areas have demonstrated that similar problems can be solved in different ways and the type of solution is shaped and inspired by the natural or cultural environment.

The government and Kanu for that matter should not vehemently support the teaching of party manifestos that mean little to people but should ensure that education curricula at all levels include consideration of indigenous cultures and heritage.

Gender dynamics

She is keen to explore gender dynamics among the two research groups, through their manipulation of the media.

"Will we find women in the communities dipping into British magazines and television material that will challenge their traditional gender roles? What British culture is doing to their families and to women, food, great concern to the men; it becomes hard for men to control. We see religion pulling one way and economic realities pulling another," Prof. Sreberny Mohammad concludes.

Religion is a good way to explore cultural identity," Prof. Sreberny Mohammad says.

And in recognition to the positive role played by women in keeping the indigenous culture and heritage alive, the government should undertake to formulate and implement gender-sensitive and responsive programmes.

Governments in developing countries should also encourage and facilitate the entering of women and men in art and cultural products, and adopt appropriate legislation to this effect.

On this note, the move by the government to support the *Half* sector is commendable.

Two different Muslim communities are to be the focus of research by two universities.

The question of how different Muslim communities in the United Kingdom produce and consume media and how it affects them is to be studied.

The research by Professor Annabelle Sreberny Mohammad, director of the Centre for Mass Communication Research at the University of Leicester, and Professor Charlie Husband of the Department of Social and Economic Studies at the University of Bradford, is funded by the Economic and

Social Research Council as part of a £2.3 million (Sh 225 million) research programme into media economics and media culture.

Members of the research team will be looking not just at media production by the minority groups, but the perceptions about the media that persist among members of the selected Muslim communities.

They will compare media issues among the Iranian community in London and the Pakistani community in Bradford and will study their involvement in

By Jane Pearson

in cultural, political and economic flows at local, national and global levels.

Group work with media audiences will explore differing media tastes, habits and patterns of identification between the two minority groups as well as the host group. Prof. Sreberny Mohammad hopes that this will reveal how the two groups use the media; what they look at and read; and what they produce, from small-scale newsletters to published newspapers.

"The use of media and cultural productions forms a good base of entrepreneurial activities for minority groups," she says. "The minority media is a worldwide entrepreneurial activity and this can raise questions of legality, such as copyright, when copies of videos are sent across the world. It creates 'black' and 'grey' economies."

She and Prof. Husband are particularly interested in the use of media to form a community and retain its cultural identity, and to explore the role of media in the production of national politics.

Islam is usually presented in the British media as a civilisation clash between East and the West.

Religion is a good way to explore cultural identity," Prof. Sreberny Mohammad says.

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Life and times of Nyambura Njoroge

Last but also first. That is Nyambura J. Njoroge. She is the last-born in a family of nine daughters and the first and only ordained minister of her parents.

And that is not her only first. The Rev Dr Nyambura Njoroge happens to have been the first of the present 13 women ministers of Word and Sacrament in her Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA). She was ordained in September 1982.

Currently the Executive Secretary of PACT Programme of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches in Geneva, Switzerland, Nyambura was a few weeks ago in Nairobi for the Pan-African Conference of the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians.

The Circle is a multi-religious group of women in which Muslims, Catholics and Protestants are represented. The Nairobi conference theme was "Transforming Power: Women in the Household of God". Nyambura says PACT is

actually her baby. She launched it when she was appointed the WARC executive secretary in September 1992. PACT stands for women and men in partnership in church and society.

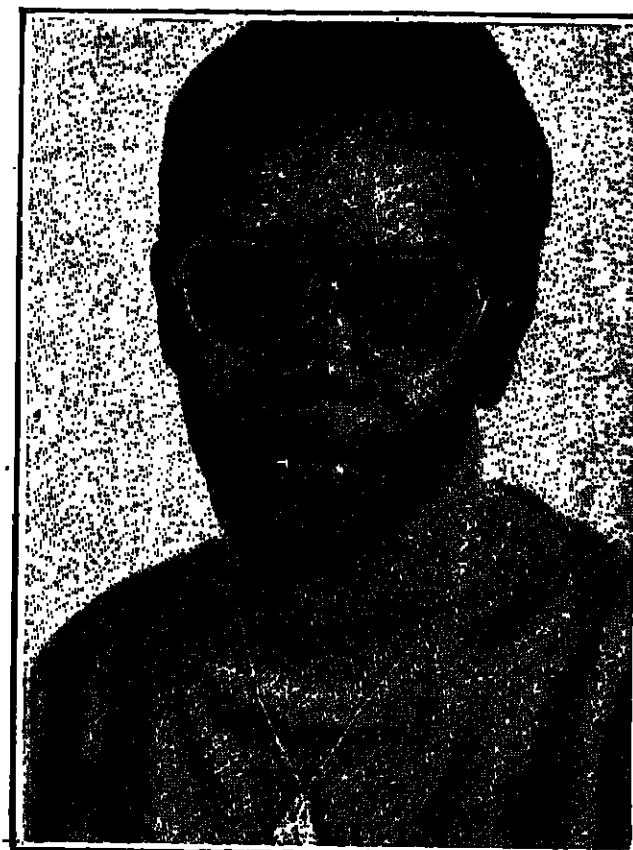
Since 1992, she has promoted PACT among WARC's 200 member churches spread over 100 countries. The churches are PCEA, Reformed Churches, Congregational and United Churches.

"Our stand is that there is still a lot of inequality in our society and women have been addressing this issue themselves for about 30 years. They are beginning to feel that men should join them on board for any meaningful results.

Full participants

"Part of my job is to communicate with the churches and women to see to it that women's contributions are taken more seriously," says the mother of two, a son and daughter.

Her doctorate dissertation at



Dr (Rev) Nyambura Njoroge... an achiever par excellence.

Princeton Theological Seminary, United States, in the late Eighties, was "The Women's Guilds in the PCEA: A Theological and Ethical Analysis of their Contribution in the Life, Church and Society."

"She told me that PACT's mission is that ordination for the ministry of Jesus Christ is for both men and women and this is the message she has been conveying all along, appealing for full participation at all levels.

"But, you know, it is not easy for men to understand what we women are saying. In fact some of them have not seen a woman clergy. But we continue to look forward for an on-going dialogue between the two," says Nyambura whose husband,

engineer Njoroge E. Njuguna,

also lives and works in Geneva. In the present struggle for women's liberation, even the church, the torch-bearer to heaven, is not budging, says Nyambura and argues that no one can claim to have a right for ordination because in essence this is a calling.

New dimensions

"All we want is our voice to be heard and I hasten to say so because the woman in Africa is still the most economically deprived. The paradox is that she was at the forefront during the liberation movement," she says. The WARC executive asserts that women are created in the image of God just like men and



KNOW YOUR CLERGY

By Seth Musisi

that faith for both men and women is sealed through baptism.

At their various consultations, whether at national or regional levels, women emphasize the truth that in all these, the final authority is Jesus Christ and that God's gifts to the world were for both men and women.

In the Nairobi discussions, women analysed such practices as female circumcision, the issue being whether this is life-giving or destruction. Such open discourses, she says, had also opened new dimensions whereby most outspoken women on such gender issues were not popular.

Says Nyambura who is 40 this year: "When you hear some people saying what women were discussing in their forums is imported from foreign countries, then it becomes even more difficult for them to minister to the rural woman and even help her children."

The World Alliance of Reformed Churches is organising the 23rd general council whose theme is: "Break the Chains of Injustice." It will take place in Debrecen, Hungary, from 8th to 20th August, next year. About 400 delegates are expected to attend the council meeting which is held every seven or eight years.

Nyambura acknowledges that the most significant thing in her working life is the support she has received from her husband. He has always been encouraging in the ministry of Jesus Christ, she says.

"I remember well that when

it came to the point that I wanted to pursue my PhD at Princeton, I first asked him whether his career as an engineer would determine what our next move was going to be. But he suggested that he abandon his job for the sake of accompanying me to USA," says the woman who joined the ministry when she was only 20.

It was the same story when Njoroge agreed to accompany her to Geneva in 1992 for her present job.

Her parents too have been a great inspiration to her. Her father is a PCEA pastor. The mother is a church women's leader and is also involved in YWCA.

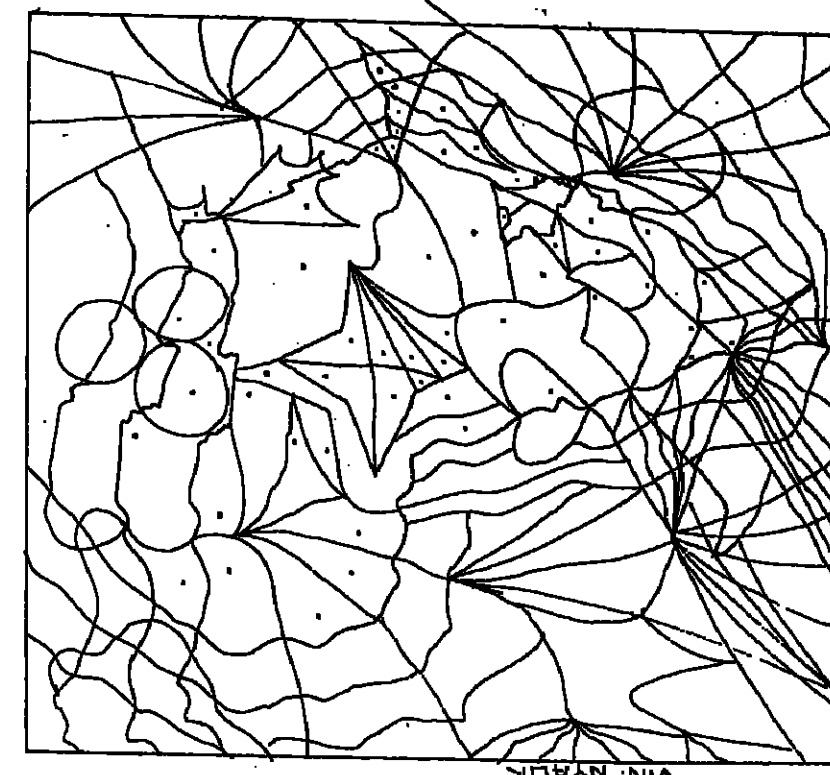
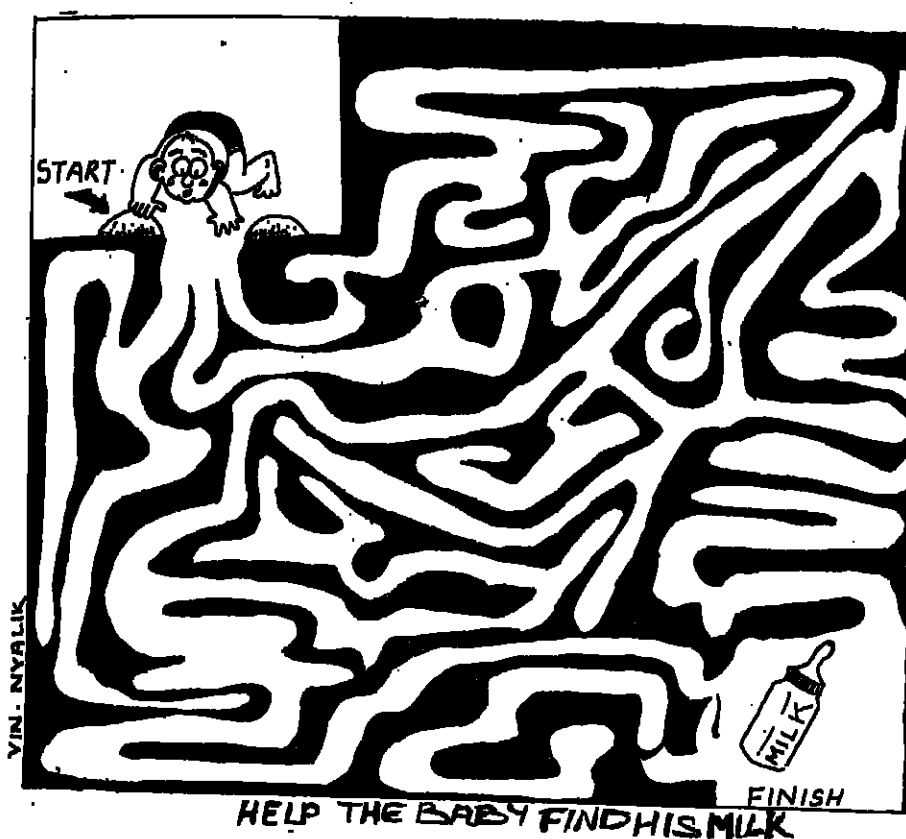
Born in Ngenda, Murang'a district, Nyambura attended Ngenda Primary School and Ngenda Secondary School before joining the Kenya Teachers College in 1975 for a "SI" teacher's certificate.

She taught at St Joseph's Worker, Mangu, and Ngenda Girls in 1977 before joining St Paul's Theological College the following year for a three-year degree programme in divinity.

When she left St Paul's in 1980, she served the Bahai Parish, Nairobi, and left four years later for Louisville, Kentucky, for her master's degree. On return to Kenya she was appointed the pastor-in-charge of Kangemi and Loreto congregations. She returned to the United States in August 1988 for her PhD.

Nyambura and Njoroge were married in August 1978. Their children are aged 17 and 14 1/2 years.

Young Readers Corner



Haunted by mother's death

By Maureen Nasike

The sun had gone to its hiding cave. I had prepared our supper. After cooking, I went to my room, took a novel and started reading.

All was in vain because I was reading. Instead I saw images of my mother and I felt a cold chill run down my spine. I started wondering what was happening to me. I shivered with fear.

I threw the novel on my bed and went outside our house. Then I remembered that our English teacher had advised us that when we are surprised or petrified we should take a deep breath and everything will be okay. So I did that but nothing happened.

After a while, I discovered

her about my fears.

As we searched for my mother, we met two policemen who joined us. Then I stepped on something which was as cold as ice. The policemen had torches which they used to help us identify the object.

I could not believe my eyes: the body we saw had blood all over. But it was that of my mother. She had been murdered.

The policemen examined the body and told us to go home. "Remember to report at our police station tomorrow morning," one of them said.

I could not sleep that night as I wondered who could have killed my mother. The following

morning I woke up very early and went to the police station. The two policemen took me to see my mother's body at the mortuary.

Tears rushed down my cheeks when I saw the body. The policemen consoled me and promised to find the murderers.

"Go home and after two weeks your mother's body will be buried in your homestead. But leave everything to us," one of the policemen said.

My mother was buried a few days later. Up to now I cannot comprehend her death.

Maureen Nasike is from Uthiru High School, Kabete.

Beware: Rigging can be done on polling day

From Page 12

is nothing criminal or immoral to be a member or a leader of a registered political party. Joining such a party does not mean that you are not loyal to the government.

By merely becoming a member of the party in power does not make you any loyal to its government either. You can be loyal in whichever party you are. The government in power has very specific roles.

The government in power has a duty to serve all citizens regardless of their party membership. The president should not isolate people just because they did not vote for him or for his party.

The government must co-operate with the opposition. It must not portray members of the opposition as enemies. It should regard them as partners in the development process.

The political party that wins the election forms the government. That it forms the government does not mean that it is equal to the government. The president or chairman of the party should distinguish when he or she is acting as the head of the government or as a party leader. He or she should never divert state funds to promote his or her party.

He or she should not use state organs like the police, army, provincial administration and others to suppress other political parties. In fact the leader should ensure that the state machinery to suppress the opposition is dismantled.

Some people believe that the role of

the Opposition is to oppose the ruling party and the government in power for the sake of it. Others assume that the Opposition has no role when it is not in power. That is not true.

They do not know that the opposition is supposed to keep an eye on the government so that it does not misuse power. It is also supposed to educate the public on their rights, responsibilities and other key issues in the daily life of the nation.

It is true that the party in power and the opposition should co-operate on positive national programmes and policies since they are serving the same citizens.

The role of the Opposition party is not merely to confront or oppose the one in power but to provide checks and balances which will ensure an active parliament that puts people first. A political party should not be built around a personality. It must not be an extension of his or her family, business or any other personal loyalty. He or she must have a clean record. If a party is controlled by an individual he or she is likely to dictate to party members.

The ruling party and those in the Opposition have in the end a duty to make sure that a good government exists. They have also to ensure that there is a civil society, that is one where citizens are aware of their responsibilities and rights and thus participate in deciding on their destiny. A good government is characterised by a number of things:

1. A good government protects the interests of citizens regardless of age, sex, race, tribe or religion. It promotes justice, peace and equality among all the citizens. It protects the constitution. The constitution is the most sacred document in the running of the country as it is supposed to protect common good. A good government does not allow the violation of the constitution by any one.

2. A good government is not corrupt and does not encourage corruption. It has mechanisms that put corruption in check and punishes those who are corrupt irrespective of status.

3. It has a clear development programme. Such a programme should be meant for common good and should not be a mere reflection of the whims of the leaders in power.

4. It should also not be meant to favour certain sections of the community at the expense of others. However, that good government cannot be realised unless you vote the right people into power at all levels of leadership.

You as a voter are eligible to contest for civic, parliamentary and presidential seats. Most people think that to stand for office one has to have some special status in the society. However, that is not the case. Unlike common belief, the following are requirements to contest for leadership at any level.

One does not have to be rich. Wealth is not a quality of leaders. Neither is poverty. We should elect someone

who understands our problems and who can mobilize the community to seek solutions for their problems. In some instances, the rich manipulate voters with their money and want to get leadership to protect and increase their wealth.

One does not have to be of a certain clan, tribe or religion. In some parts of the country it is still common belief that a leader has to belong to a certain status or lineage to be eligible for office. In a multi-party democracy, there is no inheritance of leadership. Instead leadership is decided by the people.

One does not have to be a certain sex to vie for office. The traditional belief amongst some communities that leadership belongs to men is both retrogressive and misplaced in a democratic society. Both men and women have an equal chance to vie for leadership.

Old age is not a qualification for leadership. If you have attained the age required by the constitution for certain office then you qualify to contest. The traditional belief amongst some people that old age is wisdom is not in accordance to the principles of a democratic society.

What do you need to qualify as a civic candidate? To vie for civic office, a councillor, you need the following requirements according to the law:

Must be of a minimum age of 18 years
Must be a registered voter
Must be a Kenyan citizen
Must be of sound mind

The candidate must be nominated by a registered political party.
Should be able to read, write and speak at least one of the official languages of the local authority.

As a parliamentary candidate you need the following qualifications:

- Must be of a minimum age of 21 years.
- Must be a Kenyan citizen
- Must be a registered voter
- Must be of sound mind
- Must be nominated or endorsed by a registered political party
- Must be able to speak and understand Kiswahili or English well.

To vie for the presidential seat you must be a registered voter, a Kenyan citizen, over 35 years of age, contesting a parliamentary seat, be of sound mind and be nominated by a political party.

One can be disqualified for contesting a civic, parliamentary or presidential seat if he/she:

- (a) is under sentence of death;
- (b) is serving imprisonment exceeding six months;
- (c) is judged to be of unsound mind;
- (d) has been declared bankrupt.

Those holding public office as judges, chief magistrates and those in the armed forces are also barred by the law from contesting.

Excerpted from 'You and Your Constituency' by James and Priscilla.

the word

Each of the following items in the seven groups. In each group there is one item that is irrelevant. Can you identify the irrelevant item?

This example can serve as a guide.
Paper punch, ruler, rubber stamp, pen, ink, tie, pencil.
The irrelevant item is TIE.

(i) Stamps, shoes, Writing pad, Envelope, Wax, Pen, Ink.
(ii) Chalks, Desks, Beds, Blackboard, Books, Teacher, stick.

(iii) Zebra, Lion, Monkey, Elephant, Ice-cream, Leopard, Crocodile.
(iv) Lodges, Swimming, Pool, Referee, Waiter, Courtesy bus, Restaurants, Cook.

(v) Presents, Ribbons, Flowers, Balloons, Track suit, Cake, Best man.

(vi) Telephone, Boss, Secretary, Files, Computer, Messenger, Fridge.
(vii) Hot milk, Gum, Margarine, Groundnuts, Cocoa, Sugar.

By E. Ouma Ombao.



CROSSWORD

Across:

1. The prophet of God, to whom Baruch was Secretary.
6. Perceives with the ears.
8. The first and last letters of the alphabet.
9. A walkway in the farm for use by animals and vehicles.
10. An animal.
13. An assistant in a meeting who guides visitors.
14. A worthy investment.
15. The path between pews leading to the rostrum.
17. The act of selling below the usual price of goods.
18. Being similar.
20. Neither blunt, nor dull.
22. In Freudian psychology, the basic in human relations.
23. To deliver to one who asks.
24. The biblical opposite of a Jew.

Down:

1. Judicious.
2. A place where buying and selling are involved.
3. The king husband to Deborah.
4. King Ahab's son who became a prophet.

5. One who uses physical might to bring another down.

7. The deep and heavy male voice in singing.
10. Livestock thieves.
11. The act of verifying authenticity.
15. To give help.
16. To deliver a sharp quick blow with the open palm.
19. The sharp end of a cutting instrument.
21. To have an access across a barrier.

Answers

Across: 1. Jeremiah, 6. Hears, 8. Az, 9. Track, 12. Beas, 13. Usher, 14. Angel, 15. Aisle, 17. Aisle, 18. Alike, 20. Sharp, 22. ID, 23. Bring, 25. Gentle.

Down: 1. Just, 2. Market, 3. Ahab, 4. Haze, 5. Wrestler, 7. Bass, 10. Knight, 11. Chocking, 15. Assist, 16. Slap, 19. Edge, 20. Pass.

Cricket takes root in Africa as S.A. wins tournament

The recently concluded Centennial Four Nations Cricket Tournament proved that Africa, specifically Kenya and South Africa have the potential to dominate the sport in years to come.

Sports enthusiasts and writers who watched the performances of the two African nations were in doubt that it is a question of time before cricket is snatched from the current major cricket nations such as India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and West Indies.

The tournament was won by South Africa and although Kenya lost all the matches, the country had the organisational skills and potential to perform much better in the coming years.

As one sports writer from Lahore, Pakistan, who was in the country to cover the event observed: "Kenya is capable of gaining international recognition sooner than most nations think."

And yet another sports columnist observed that the only lacking thing is nurturing the talent in the local boys and exposing them to the big time cricket so that they can match major playing nations.

The fact that Kenya was able to successfully host the four-nation tournament was itself a confirmation that the sport is being given the consideration it deserves. This was also a golden opportunity for the local boys to get the right kind of exposure which can push them to greater heights.

Some of the other mentioned impediments to Kenya dominating the international cricket scene has been its failure to become a full member of the International Cricket Council (ICC).

The four-nation tournament was held at a time when celebrations for the 100th year since the sports was introduced in Kenya were going on. The first cricket match was played in 1896 in Mombasa and it was not until three years later that the sport was introduced in Nairobi.

Since then progress has been made to overcome some of the problems the sports has faced over a century until the present milestone was reached. However, the pace of developing the sports has been slow compared to other cricket-sporting nations.

It is worth noting that the hosting of the tournament was the first time that a non-test playing nation in the world hosted test playing countries.

What Kenya needs most to qualify to become a test playing country is more dedication and responsibility to the sport. Those responsible for the development of the sport, including the Kenya Cricket Association (KCA), need to be reminded that there is no short cut to success and therefore they must exert every effort while pushing the country to greater heights.

The Nairobi tournament attracted three test playing nations Pakistan, Sri Lanka and

South Africa and saw five records being set, a record in cricket history.

South Africa, who emerged the winner put up an incredible performance with their cricketers not leaving anything to chance.

During the tournament it became obvious that there was a lot that the Kenyans could learn from the way South Africans went about in winning the game. Three specific areas stand out: the way the South Africans batted, bowled and fielded. These are areas in which the local boys ought to improve upon if they expect to get far during the next international competition.

Another useful tactic employed by the Mandela boys was the rotation of their limited bowling attacks which even champion Pakistanis found difficult to control.

Although Kenya started off as the underdog in the tournament, the fact that one time it came cross to beating Pakistan was another pointer that with

more determination and training it can do much better. The other indicator was that for Kenya to have put some semblance of a fight against world champions such as South Africa and Pakistan was good enough for the East Africans.

Like all other sporting venues in this country, the site of the tournament cries out for improvement. Similarly as in football, athletics and other sports, cricket needs to be organised on a professional line.

The Kenyan players need more regular training by professional and experienced trainers especially before major international matches. As is becoming clear, Kenya can realise good results in international competition without raising the structure of any game on modern, scientific lines. This yet another area which the KCA has to address.

Sources within the KCA have decried the meagre resources at the association's disposal but the

fact that major international sponsors came forward to finance the tournament and the enthusiasm the event generated both locally and international is a point of consolation.

The observation that cricket is passionately followed here shows there is no lack of local support for the sport.

Kenyans have been playing cricket as a weekend sports and this is something that has to change if it hopes to match other world champions.

During the tournament it was evident that Kenya was good in especially two areas: fielding and bowling. It is in batting that Kenya needs to be uplifted.

Another factor which contributed to Kenyan's loss was lack of international experience, which was clearly demonstrated by the way the country let the advantage of getting early wicket slip away due to technical mistakes. This is what made Kenya lose to Pakistan.

Coast KAA team re-elected

All the former Coast Amateur Athletics Association (CAAA) officials were last week re-elected to office during elections at the PC's boardroom.

Stop being money maniacs

President Daniel arap Moi has warned Kenya's sportsmen and women against being more maniacs and un-patriotic. He too the swipe at the sportsmen and women when he watched the Mt. Golden Cup soccer finals at the Moi Stadium between Mums Sugar and Reli clubs.

Ekumbo out of ASAK race

Ben Ekumbo, the long serving Amateur Swimming Association of Kenya (ASAK) secretary general will not defend his seat come ASAK elections on November 2. He gave the reason of his decision as the need for the secretaryship to have new blood to improve the standards of the game locally.

IAAF to train secretaries-general

The International Amateur Athletics Federation regional development centre based in Nairobi is to conduct a six-week course for secretaries-general of athletics associations from Africa's 20 English-speaking nations, the assistant director of the Centre Philip Ndoo has announced.

Ugandans for Kenyatta Day Cup

The Ugandan Police handball team are expected in the country this week for the Kenyatta Day tournament at Gigili Stadium according to the Kenya Amateur Handball Association chairman R.K. Paul.

Gor to pay for CAF match

The Kenya Football Federation (KFF) this week asked Gor Mahia Football Club to pay US\$1,500 (about Sh 84,000) imposed on the club by Confederation of Africa Football (CAF) after the failed Africa Cup of Club Champions match seven months ago at Nairobi's City Stadium.

Kenyans train for New York Marathon

Four of Kenya's international athletes from the Puma Club already in residential training, Kaptegat, 32 kilometres south west of Eldoret in preparation for the forthcoming New York Marathon.

Leopards awarded disputed match

The Kenya Football Federation (KFF) this week awarded Leopards the September abandoned Premier League match against arch-rivals Mums Sugar on a three points, to goals basis.

Clicking on to a better golf swing



A simple device developed by golf professional is helping players to perfect their swing. Every good (and bad) golfer knows that the key to hitting the ball with distance is by having a swing that is smooth and has rhythm. The device pictured above called ProSwing, from Pro-Stat (UK), is worn like a wristwatch and makes a loud click when the golf swing is erratic. It can be used on or off the course, in the home or at the driving range and by those needing to practice their swing without a club.

Juniors to be crowd puller in camel race

During this year's Maralal International Camel Derby to be held from October 26 to 27 the major attraction will be the junior category riders.

At the same time Kenya Airways, a long-standing sponsor of the event has contributed tickets valued at Sh 250,000 to the winners.

The main attraction will be 14-year old Lena Kaara from Embu who has dominated the junior girls category for many years.

The other junior competitor to watch will be Lawrence Wambile from Sololo on the Ethiopia border who in the past has performed credibly. He has been described as a promising player.

The only non-East African participating in the junior category is Ferdie Du Piessis, a student from South Africa who during the last few years has put a lot of pressure on Kenyans. The boy is definitely eyeing the Kenyan junior championship.

The junior prize money on offer is Sh 15,000 - first prize, Sh 10,000 - second prize and Sh 5,000 - third prize.

In the amateur category the handlers are also taken care of where the first prize is Sh 5,000 - first prize, Sh 4,000 - second prize and Sh 3,000 - third prize.

Another youth in the race is Lennie Ng'ang'a from Thika who spent considerable time in Maralal.

While presenting the Sh 250,000 cheque to the MCD chairman Aussie Walker, Kenya Airways marketing director Joe Adongo said the national carrier recognised the need to support local sports and tourist attractions, especially activities such as those of the camel racing, which brought considerable benefit to the participants.

Mr Adongo added: "I am particularly enthused by the event because of the international publicity it generated and the support from the international riders."

Walker thanked the Kenya Airways noting that no sport could exist without the support of sponsors.

He stressed the need for the growth of the juniors in camel racing, citing examples of Lena Kaara, Lawrence Wambile, Sean Walker and Ferdie Du Piessis.

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